**■ Entertainment / C1**

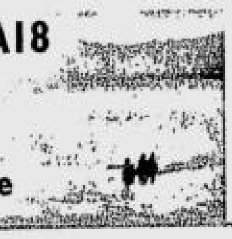
**GMA's Mike Enriquez rapped, fined by KBP**

**■ World / A9**

**President Chen of Taiwan reelected in tight race**

**■ Across / A18**

**Finding Longman's Beaked Whale**



**■ Magazine / Q1**

**Can Kabayan do the job?**

**■ Lifestyle / D1**

**Once more the terno**

## Joma does it 'Mao's Way' in recording debut

I DID IT MAO'S WAY!

**By Volt Contreras**

AN "American Idol" he's definitely not, what with the "terrorist" tag he's carrying courtesy of the US and European governments.

But that tag is not getting

JOMA/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## The grandpa I never knew

**By Paco Magsaysay**

*(Editor's Note: The author is 36 years old, an entrepreneur and only son of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.)*

THE OLD, frayed photographs in my grandmother's house speak to me about The Guy.

Just like in the movies, the pictures are my portals to the past. But they are alive, telling

THE GRANDPA/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Sunday, March 21, 2004 ★★ 100 pages / 13 sections / vol. 19 / no. 104 P18 website: www.inq7.net

# Explain bailout, GMA told

## *Opposition bets seek review of Maynilad's P8-B 'jackpot deal'*

**By TJ Burgonio, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Christine Avendaño and Christine A. Gaylican**

CEBU CITY—Political opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for a review of the reported government move to take over the debt-saddled Maynilad Water Services, which they said was a bailout of the influential Lopez family which controls the water utility's majority owner, Benpres Holdings.

Raul Roco, who is running for president under the Alyansa ng Pag-asa, said the so-called reorganization plan for Maynilad needed to be reviewed as it was approved "because of politics."

"You must never mix business and politics. Business must be run as a business. Politics must be run as politics. And governance must be run for the benefit of the people," he told reporters here.

Roco agreed with his running mate, former congressman Herminio Aquino, who called the takeover a "midnight bail-out" of Benpres.

Aquino claimed that the takeover could have been part of a deal between the President and the Lopez family in exchange for broadcaster Sen. Noli de Castro's joining the administration slate as her running mate.

The justice department announced on Thursday that it had reached an agreement with Benpres which entailed the conglomerate's writing off its holdings in Maynilad, its joint venture with the French-based Suez Group (now called Ondeo Phil.).

The agreement will mean the conversion of about P8 billion in unpaid concession fees of Maynilad into equity, with the state regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System taking up a 61 percent stake in the water utility.

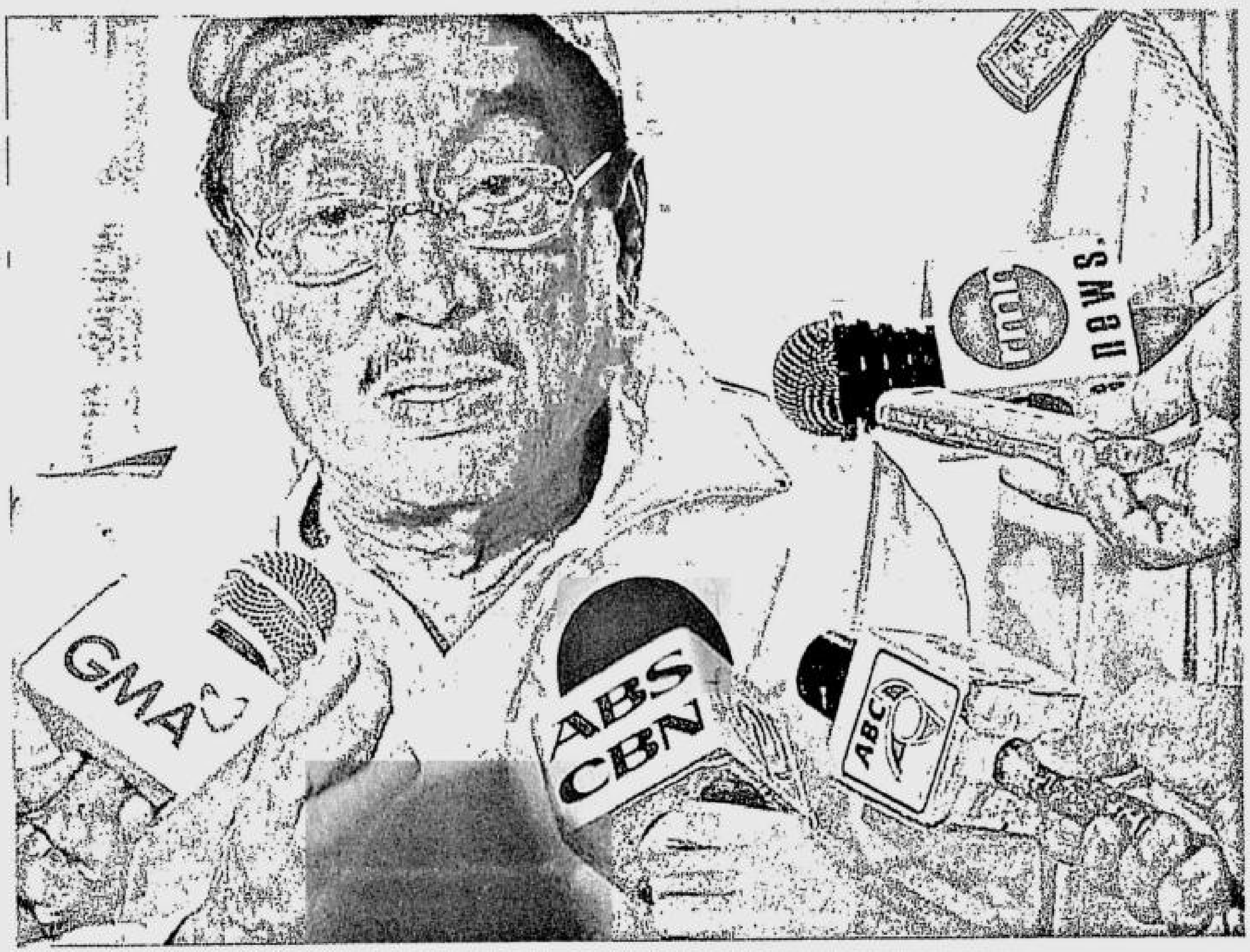
Juan Ponce Enrile, who is running for senator under the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, said the "scandalous sweetheart deal" was meant "to save the influential and powerful Lopez family from bankruptcy."

Instead of penalizing the Lopezes for mismanaging its concession and incurring billions of pesos in obligations to the government, the Macapagal administration was "gifting the country's luckiest family with attractive concessions for obvious political benefit and radio and television mileage in the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN network," Enrile said in a statement.

He said that what the deal meant was that taxpayers and consumers "would have to pay through their noses to wipe out the P8-billion Maynilad debt and new foreign and local loans obtained by the firm and let the same inefficient management of Maynilad Water hang on to continue abusing consumers and helping themselves to government funds," he said.

Aquino, who as a congressman authored the bill creating the energy department, yesterday said the government takeover of

EXPLAIN/ A21



EDWIN BACASMAS

**NO COMMENT** for now from "Da King of Comedy," Dolphy, who's campaigning vigorously for "Da King" of Philippine movies even as the buzz up and down the campaign trail is that he's been shown the exit door by ABS-CBN for conduct inimical to Malacañang's interests.

## Pro-FPJ Dolphy to be homeless soon

**By Marinel R. Cruz and Christine O. Avendaño**

COMEDY king Dolphy may soon have a new show.

From "Home along Da Riles" to "Home Along the Airport" to just plain homeless.

Dolphy, 75, the grand old man of Philippine movies, was reportedly served an "ejection" notice by his home network of over a decade, ABS-CBN, because he campaigned for good friend and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

The Lopez-owned network is supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is seeking a full term.

An industry insider confirmed that Associate Broadcasting Corp. Channel 5 had offered Dolphy his own show when businessman Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco bought the network from the group of Edward Tan in 2002.

But talks only started to get "serious" when ABC 5 executives met with people from Dolphy's camp last Wednesday and Thursday, the source said.

"This is because they knew Dolphy's show on Channel 2 would soon be axed," the source explained. "But there was no definite agreement yet."

ABS-CBN, however, insisted that Dolphy would not be leaving the network anytime soon. "There's no truth to that rumor," Leah

PRO-FPJ/ A21

**THE CHARM OFFENSIVE** ELECTION 2004

JULIUS B. REYES/POPO MALACANANG PHOTO

**ANGELES CITY:** The most seasoned among the presidential candidates who have taken to the hustings, President Macapagal doesn't betray signs of campaign fatigue, showing the tirelessness and stamina she says she inherited from her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal.

## Spontaneous visits but a smoothie to last detail

*Editor's Note: The INQUIRER starts a series of essays on the campaign style and impact of the five presidential candidates, a two-parter for each. In alphabetical order, the series starts with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.*

**By Ester G. Dipasupil**
*Desk Editor*

*(First of two parts)*

FEBRUARY 19: Bulacan

It's 6.a.m. and Malacañang is ready to go to work.

At least, that was how its Press Office looked like, with secretaries churning out schedules for the day, getting packed lunches into waiting vans for the press corps, and distributing caps to those who would join the campaign convoy, in anticipation of the gathering heat outside. Reporters exchange small talk and muffle early morning yawns.

Like the rest of us, Malacañang's principal tenant had wiped the sleep from her eyes an hour earlier and primed up for the day ahead, starting

SPONTANEOUS/ A8

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Bicol region will experience stormy weather and the coastal waters will be rough to very rough. Northern Samar provinces, Eastern Quezon including Polillo and Burias Islands will have rains and gusty winds. Coastal waters over these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Southern and Eastern Luzon and the rest of Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/21/04

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Partly Cloudy | **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | **Gen. Santos** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | **Zamboanga** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Legazpi** | Stormy Weather | **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Calapan** | Cloudy with Rains | **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains |

# Waray kidnap gang falls; hostage safe

**By Alcuin Papa**

**LIGHTNING raids by police on safehouses of the notorious Waray-Waray kidnap-for-ransom gang led to the arrest of 15 suspected members early yesterday morning in Antipolo and Quezon cities.**

A 27-year-old Filipino-Chinese woman being held hostage by the gang was rescued by police.

Operatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group under the command of Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez rescued Genevieve Sy of Sta. Cruz, Manila, around 5:30 a.m. in Pamayanang Upcheco, San Luis, Antipolo City.

In a report to CIDG director Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Gutierrez said eight suspects were arrested in the Antipolo safehouse. One of those nabbed provided information that led police to the other safehouse.

Seven other suspected gang members were caught in Fairview, Quezon City.

The operations were conducted in coordination with the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktf), Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) team and Antipolo City police.

Sy was taken from her red Mitsubishi Lancer last Thursday on Manuguit Street in Tondo, Manila. The victim's family immediately got in touch with the CIDG through Teresita Ang-See, head of Citizens' Action Against Crime and Corruption (CAAC).

Gutierrez said the kidnappers, using the victim's cell phone, had initially demanded P50 million for Sy's release. The ransom was later reduced to P500,000.

"Every time the kidnappers called the family, they threatened to imitate the case of Betti Chua Sy," Gutierrez said.

Chua Sy was kidnapped late last year in Quezon City and her body was found the following day on Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Parañaque City.

Police recovered the P500,000 ransom from the suspects.

The 15 were turned over by the CIDG to Naktf for investigation while charges of kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms were being readied against them.

Gutierrez' unit, the CIDG-Criminal Investigation and Detection Division (CIDG-CIDD), was also responsible for the arrest of Feliciano Laygo, the country's sixth most-wanted kidnapper, in Tiaong, Quezon on Friday.

Thirteen of the suspects were identified by police. Those arrested in Antipolo were SPO4 Romeo Ayson, 52; Romeo Arota, 33; Jose Albato, 43; Jaime Tolevas, 43; Edwin Castillo, 23; Sebastian Magaipo, 30; George Lanchow and Kim Asli.

Nabbed in the safehouse on Riyal St., North Fairview, Quezon City, were Julien Madrid, 29; Mary Ann Angtahan, 23; Janeth Patilona, 19; Alberto Culanag, 38; Pepe Bihag, 25; Clifftor Langcao, 22, and Erick Pat-o, 25.

Recovered from the suspects were two .45-cal. automatic pistols, two jungle bolos, a Hyundai vehicle and two cell phones.

Castillo was said to a reservist in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ang-See said Ayson, the alleged leader of the subgroup of the Waray-Waray gang, was an officer of the CIDG.

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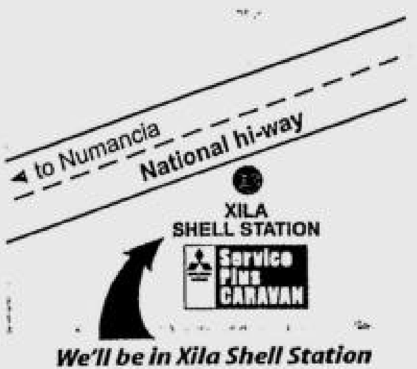

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# Nene raps ID system for Muslims

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday branded as "outrightly silly and insane" a plan to require Muslims in Metro Manila to carry identification cards in a bid to deter terrorism and eradicate criminality.

The ID system was voluntarily proposed by leaders of Muslim communities in Metro Manila for all regular residents of their respective communities to flush out terrorists and criminals using Muslim communities as a springboard for their illegal activities.

Pimentel said the proposal was reminiscent of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler who required all Jews to wear the Star of David insignia in Europe.

The senator pointed out that the move was illegal, if not unconstitutional, because it was selective and oppressive.

"This will only apply insofar as the Muslim people are concerned. The current impression is that they are the source of criminal activities in Metro Manila, therefore, they should have IDs. But what if Christians and lumads are also made to wear IDs in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or other Moro areas?"

National Capital Regional Police Office Director Ricardo de Leon earlier announced that around 30 Muslim leaders "volunteered" to adopt an identification system for their members and vowed to implement the system this week.

Pimentel said that good police work, more trained personnel, upgraded equipment would deter terrorism, not IDs.

# Oil firms hike gasoline prices

**By Abigail L. Ho**

OIL COMPANIES yesterday raised the pump prices of gasoline by 60 centavos per liter and kerosene by 40 centavos per liter, citing escalating prices in the world market and the further depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

Caltex Philippines jacked up its prices of gasoline and kerosene effective 6 a.m. yesterday, followed by Total (Philippines) Corp., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V and Unioil.

Petron and Pilipinas Shell have yet to hike gasoline prices.

Prices of diesel, however, would remain at current levels.

"The regional month-to-date average price of gasoline in March is almost $4.50 per barrel higher than the February average," Caltex officials said in a statement. "We can no longer maintain our current prices in view of the continued increase in international product and crude prices."

Gasoline prices have been steadily rising since October, averaging $30.45 per barrel. The average rose to $32.45 in November, to $34.66 in December, and $40.27 in January.

# Long holiday set

IT WILL be a long Lenten holiday beginning April 7.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, in behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday signed Proclamation No. 583 declaring April 7 a regular holiday in lieu of April 9, which is observed annually as Araw ng Kagitingan.

The proclamation said that all activities observed on April 9, which commemorates the valiant stand of Filipino and American soldiers against the Japanese in Bataan during World War II, shall be held on April 7.

Maundy Thursday, April 8, and Good Friday, April 9, are traditionally observed in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country.

The proclamation also declared Saturday a special non-working holiday throughout the country.

Malacañang said the five-day holiday, including Easter Sunday, should give the Filipino people "full uninterrupted opportunity to ponder the significance of Holy Week and to properly observe its traditions with religious fervor, without prejudice to public interest."

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| Escape | Escape | N65 | T65 | LY65 |
| Love To See You Cry | Escape | N66 | T66 | LY66 |
| Hero | Escape | N67 | T67 | LY67 |
| Bailamos | Enrique | N68 | T68 | LY68 |
| Rhythm Divine | Enrique | N69 | T69 | LY69 |
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*Enrollment Period:*
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*Classes Start:*
May 24, 2004

*Requirements:*
Five (5) ID pictures
Official Transcript of Records
Two (2) Recommendation Letter
(*school head / employer*)

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# The grandpa I never knew

From page A1

stories and filling a void within.

Fishing. Shooting. Horseback-riding. These were some of the things that my grandfather, the late President Ramon Magsaysay, loved to do.

Through the pictures, I have imagined countless fishing trips with him, enjoyed shooting expeditions in the forest of Zambales where he grew up, and gone horseback-riding in the hot, lazy summer months.

Even in his absence, my childhood was as complete and as normal as that of my cousins and playmates.

Cracking jokes. Bonding with his provincemates. Visiting his folks. The photos show my grandfather at his most relaxed.

Through them, I hear his infectious laughter, share with him a joke or two, and sit with him in comfortable silence on out-of-town trips.

I like to believe I have inherited his sense of humor. Because of him, I was brought up in the virtues of simplicity, value for others, and respect for elders.

Even in his absence, he gave me a part of himself and taught me lessons I will carry with me all my life.

## Heroic

Follower. Provider. Organizer. My grandfather was the quintessential war hero.

The sepia-toned photos provide occasion for stories recounted by kith and kin. Reunions and dinners at the home of my Lola Luz [Banzon] are incomplete without the mention of his exploits.

Listening, I marvel at the seemingly ordinary chores of the man assigned by his commander to secure and provide medicines, food and other scarce supplies to the guerrilla unit he was serving.

He was their leader, but he was foremost a follower. He was their father, but more than daily provision, he offered emotional comfort and hope.

He had remarkable organizing skills, and was responsible for the thousands-strong Western Luzon guerrillas, famously remembered in 1945 as the Magsaysay Veterans Legion.

Even in his absence, I have become a huge fan of his wartime adventures.

## Great

Leader. Nationalist. Populist. My grandfather was destined for great things.

The photos are silent reminders of the kind of man he was, and the caliber of the leadership evident in the manner he carried himself before not only his political contemporaries but the Juan de la Cruzes as well.

He was a sight to behold in a *barong Tagalog*—the first Philippine president, I was told, to wear one for his inauguration. In my mind, it was a simple yet symbolic act of connecting with the masses and emphasizing his place among them.

He served native fare and *basi* to his foreign guests to impress on all and sundry his love of country. He had no airs about him, and felt most at ease with the common folk.

He was well-loved, no doubt, as evidenced by the multitudes that mobbed him wherever he went and the mammoth crowd that turned up at his funeral to pay their last respects.

Even in his absence, he is an imposing character difficult to surpass or equal.

## Extraordinary

Country. People. Family. These are the things my grandfather valued most.

The pictures convey images of how extraordinary this man was.

As a guerrilla leader, he was instrumental in fighting off the Japanese, risking his very life to spare the country he loved from foreign invasion.

As defense secretary, he rounded up the communist Huks, earning him front-page coverage in Time magazine, no less, in 1951.

Whose grandfather was able to do that?

And as President, he went back to being a loving husband and devoted father at the end of a frantic day.

Even in his absence, I feel such a surge of pride in being his grandson.

## Endearing

Sincere. Dynamic. Charismatic. I realize now that the photos at my Lola Luz's house radiate his most endearing qualities.

I admire the genuine smile. I am impressed by the boundless energy. I am amazed by the warm persona that drew people to him.

Wherever I go, I am approached by people ready to share a good story or two about him. Interesting, unbelievable, heartwarming, funny even—these are cherished stories by total strangers, passed on to them by their parents or grandparents.

How refreshing to see the smiles on the faces of these ordinary people, whose lives were greatly touched by my grandfather in one way or another.

They treat me like a long-lost family member—an instant alliance that is somewhat familiar and at the same time peculiar.

To them, knowing him at one point in their lives was a blessing.

Even in his absence, people remember his kindness, enduring after the long years that have passed. And, amazingly, they extend that same kindness to me.

I am besieged by pangs of regret for not having been afforded the gift of time to know the remarkable man that was my Lolo Monching.

But thankfully, even in his absence, he lives in me.

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# PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM

A Specialty Society of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) • A Component Society of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) • A Member of the International Society of Endocrinology (ISE)

## 2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION

## "EXPANDING ENDOCRINE HORIZONS: ENDOCRINOLOGY AT THE INTERFACE"

March 22 & 23, 2004 • Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City

## MESSAGES

In behalf of the Board of Regents of the Philippine College of Phisicians, may I convey our profound congratulations to the Board of Directors, Organizing Committee and Members of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Inc. on the occasion of your Annual Convention on March 22-23, 2004 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The occasion is indeed noteworthy especially in view of your efforts to work together towards attaining your goals and objectives. Your theme **"Expanding Endocrine Horizons: Endocrinology at the Interface"** take us to a higher level of excellence in continuing medical education. It is my hope that we all take advantage of this opportunity to learn from the experts and to share each other experiences.

To all the participants, delegates and visitors our warm welcome to all of you. We believe you are attending a truly fulfilling experience.

God Bless you and More Power.

**VICENTE JOSE Y. VELEZ, M.D., FPCP**
President
Philippine College of Physicians

Dear Colleagues,

We welcome you to the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Annual Convention with this year's theme **"Expanding Endocrine Horizons: Endocrinology at the Interface."**

Our hardworking organizing committee has come out with a programme, different from other conventions. Our scientific program boasts of plenary lectures which are state of the art, symposia which are cutting edge and evidenced based, meet the experts sessions which are great learning experiences. We are proud that we have more original researches for presentation and for poster discussions. Our industry-sponsored symposia have all been carefully chosen to provide balanced views of issues being tackled.

Not to be missed is our Fellowship Night, where we all could unwind and relax amongst friends.

If there is one convention that you need to attend, this is it! Have a great time and see you also in AFES, 2005.

**ROBERTO C. MIRASOL, MD, FPCP, FPSEM**
President, Philippine Society of Endocrinology
and Metabolism

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2004 Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, **"Expanding Endocrine Horizons: Endocrinology at the Interface"**.

This year, we are proud to present a scientific program that will offer the latest information and development in the practice of Endocrinology.

We have invited Asian experts, complimented by Philippine speakers who will provide attendees with useful knowledge on the most relevant topics in endocrinology and its related fields of subspecialty. This year, we have included workshops on endocrine imaging to give participants an opportunity to learn and discuss in detail common imaging techniques. The well-attended meet-the-expert sessions will again be part of the program this year.

A 1 1/2-day pre-convention symposium on research methods for physicians with interest in endocrinology will kick off the annual convention. This will be facilitated by PSEM members who have special training in clinical epidemiology.

Once again, this year's annual meeting will be highlighted with the awarding of two research grants given by the society (P150,000 PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology 2004 and P100,000 PSEM-Servier Research Grant in Diabetes 2004).

On behalf of the PSEM Officers and Board of Directors, I am looking forward to welcoming you all to our annual convention. Please plan to join us in this important and educational forum and let us learn and enjoy to the extreme.

**ROSA ALLYN G. SY, MD, FPCP, FPSEM**
Chair, Scientific Committee
2004 PSEM Annual Convention

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## •Program of Activities•

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **March 20 (Saturday) Pre-Convention Activities** | | |
| 8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Research Workshop | |
| **March 21 (Sunday)** | | |
| 8:00 am - 12:00 nn | Research Workshop | |
| 12:00 nn - 5:00 pm | Pre-Congress Symposium *(Palawan Ballroom)* **(Pfizer Philippines)** | |
| 6:00 p.m. | 11th Conferment Ceremonies and 7th Solemn Investitures of 2004 Diplomates (Palawan Ballroom) | |
| **March 22, (Day1)** | | |
| 6:30 - 8:00 am | **BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM (Eli Lilly)** | |
| 8:00 - 8:30 | Registration | |
| 8:30 - 8:45 | Opening Ceremonies | |
| **PLENARY LECTURE 1** | | |
| 8:45 - 9:30 | A look at Insulin Action and Insulin Resistance at the Molecular Level | *- Dr. Ruby T. Go* |
| **PLENARY LECTURE 2** | | |
| 9:30 - 10:15 | Cushing's Syndrome: Problems, Perils and Pitfalls | *- Dr. Raja C. Rajasoorya (Singapore)* |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | Break **(Roche Philippines)**<br>Opening of Exhibits | |
| **SYMPOSIUM 1: Endocrinology in Critical Illness** | | |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | Adrenal Insufficiency in Critical Illness | *- Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang* |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Common Fluid & Electrolyte Problems in the ICU Setting | *- Dr. Dinna N. Cruz* |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Open Forum | |
| 12:00 - 1:30 | **LUNCH SYMPOSIA (Merck, Inc. / Bayer Phils.)** | |
| 1:45 - 2:45 | Simultaneous Sessions: Workshops on Endocrine Imaging | |
| | 1. Bone Densitometry | *- Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan* |
| | 2. Thyroid Ultrasound | *- Dr. Cathy Mercado-Lazaro* |
| | 3. Thyroid Scan | *- Dr. Angel M. de Guzman* |
| | 4. Imaging of the Pituitary & Adrenals | *- Dr. Anthony E. Cheng* |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | BreaK **(Merck Sharp & Dohme)**<br>Posters Session | |
| **SYMPOSIUM 2: Reproductive & Geriatric Endocrinology** | | |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | HRT after WHI | *- Dr. Delfin A. Tan* |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | A Review of Anti-aging Medicine: Growth Hormone and DHEA | *- Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo* |
| 4:00 - 4:30 | Evidence-Based Medicine in Infertility | *- Dr. Trinidad R. Vera* |
| 4:30 - 4:45 | Open Forum | |
| 4:45 - 5:45 | **BUSINESS MEETING** | |
| 6:00 - 7:30 | **DINNER SYMPOSIA (Aventis Pharma / Schering Plough)** | |
| 7:30 pm | **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT " Broadway our Way!"** | |
| **March 23, 2004 (Day 2)** | | |
| 6:30 - 8:00 am | **BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM (Boie-Takeda)** | |
| **PLENARY LECTURE 3** | | |
| 8:30 – 9:15 | Thyroid and the Heart | *- Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan* |
| **SYMPOSIUM 3: Bone and Mineral Metabolism** | | |
| 9:15 – 9:45 | 2002 Guidelines for Surgery in Asymptomatic Primary Hyperparathyroidism | *- Dr. Cynthia Chua-Ho* |
| 9:45 – 10:15 | Renal Osteodystrophy and Transplantation Osteoporosis | *- Dr. Antonio V. Cayco* |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Thyroid Hormones: Beneficial or Deleterious for Bone? | *- Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco* |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Open Forum / Break **(Merck Sharp & Dohme)**<br>Posters Session | |
| 11:00 - 11:15 | Recognition of Members/Special Awards | |
| 11:25 – 12:25 | Simultaneous Sessions: Difficult Endocrine Cases | |
| | 1. Thyroiditis | *- Dr. Laura T. Acampado* |
| | 2. Secondary Hypertension | *- Dr. Raja C. Rajasoorya (Singapore)* |
| | 3. ABC's of Kidney Stones Diagnosis and Management | *- Dr. Coralie D. Dimacali* |
| | 4. Metabolic Syndrome | *- Dr. Brian Tomlinson (Hongkong)* |
| | *- Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis* | |
| 12:30 – 2:00 | **LUNCH SYMPOSIA (GSK / Therapharma)** | |
| 2:00 – 3:15 | **RESEARCH PRESENTATION** (Simultaneous Sessions) | |
| | Research Session 1: PSEM Research Contest 2004<br>Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco | |
| | Research Session 2: PSEM Oral Presentation (Completed Research Paper Grants)<br>Chair: Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy / Co-Chair: Dr. Cecile Jimeno | |
| 3:15 – 3:30 | Break **(Aventis Pharma, Inc.)**<br>Posters Session | |
| **SYMPOSIUM 4: Diabetes & Obesity** | | |
| 3:30 - 4:00 | Lower IGF Cut Off: Evidence for Earlier Intervention | *- Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca* |
| 4:00 – 4:30 | Translating Guidelines to Clinical Practice: Realities in Treating Diabetes and Obesity | *- Dr. Roberto C. Mirasol* |
| 4:30 – 4:45 | Open Forum | |
| 4:45 pm | Closing Ceremonies | |

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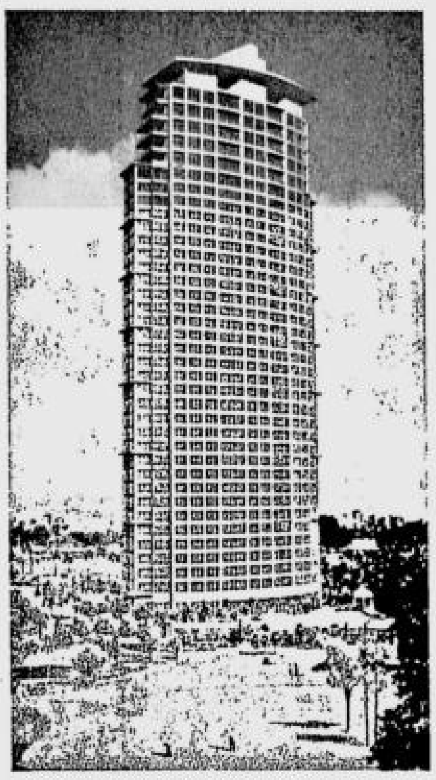

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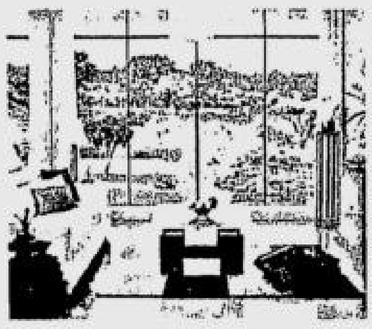

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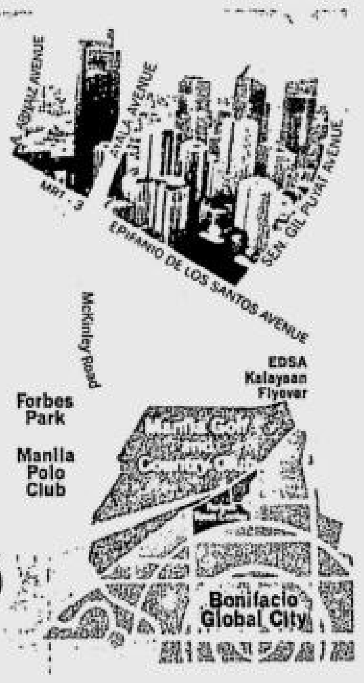

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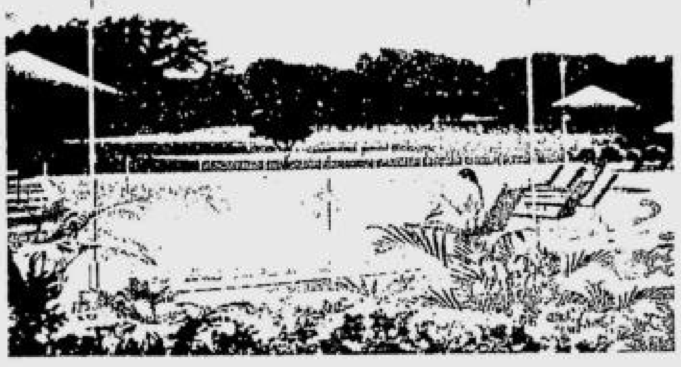

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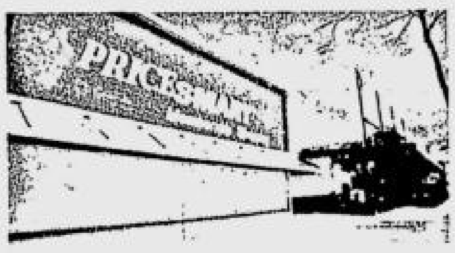

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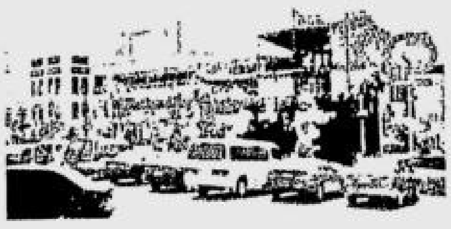

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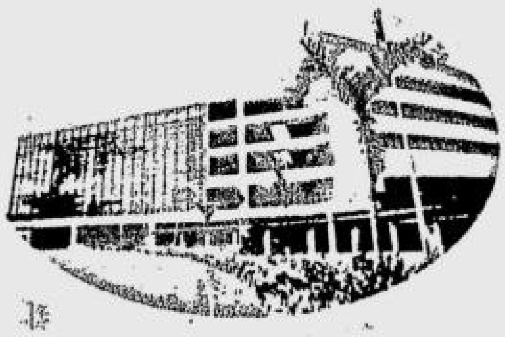

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# GMA wants Erap to spend more time with ma

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Luige del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo now wants her detained predecessor Joseph Estrada to spend more time with his sick mother, Doña Mary Ejercito, who is confined at the San Juan Medical Center.

"I am for the former President being given more time to spend with his ailing mother, but this will depend on the ruling of the court and security considerations," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal, who was in Iloilo City yesterday, issued the statement hours before Estrada was taken back to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal after 5 p.m, after he spent 36 hours with his mother in the hospital. "My policy is utmost humaneness under the law," the President said.

Yesterday, Estrada bade goodbye to his 98-year-old mother, who held on to her son's hand for as long as she could. "Don't worry, we will see each other again. I will come back," Estrada assured her.

"It's sad," San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito said when asked to describe the final meeting. "We don't know when they will meet again. The mood today is sad. *Kahapon masayang-malungkot. Ngayon malungkot.*"

Sen. Loi Ejercito said Doña Mary asked her husband to "come back as soon as you can."

## As a mother

Michael Defensor, the President's campaign spokesperson and personal emissary to Estrada, denied Ms Macapagal was once again trying to influence the Sandiganbayan into granting special favors to the ousted President.

"The President is speaking here as a mother," Defensor told the INQUIRER. "The President simply realizes the need of Doña Mary to be with her son at this time."

Defensor also clarified that the President's statement was not meant to extend yesterday's 5 p.m. deadline for Estrada to return to Camp Capinpin.

"Maybe he will be given another day to be with his mother. The Sandiganbayan would have to convene and take that up," Defensor said.

Estrada stepped out of the hospital at exactly 5:15 p.m., walked about 10 meters down the driveway, and spoke to his supporters who had gathered in front of the hospital.

## Overstayed

Estrada overstayed his 36-hour visit by about 15 minutes. He was supposed to leave at 5 p.m.

But the jacket of Estrada's tooth had loosened after he had some snacks, prompting his lawyer to ask the Philippine National Police for permission to have it fixed, according to Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, the hospital's medical director. "That's the reason for the delay," Jocson said.

As this developed, the government's chief prosecutor in the plunder case against Estrada dared the ousted leader to donate his 15-hectare resort in Tanay, Rizal to the government to make his stay at the resort legal.

"We recognize his title to the property ... unless he donates it to the government to become part of the camp," said chief Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

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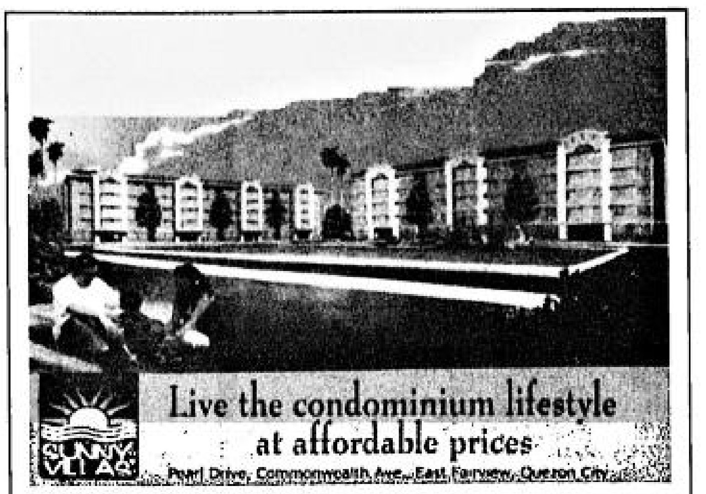
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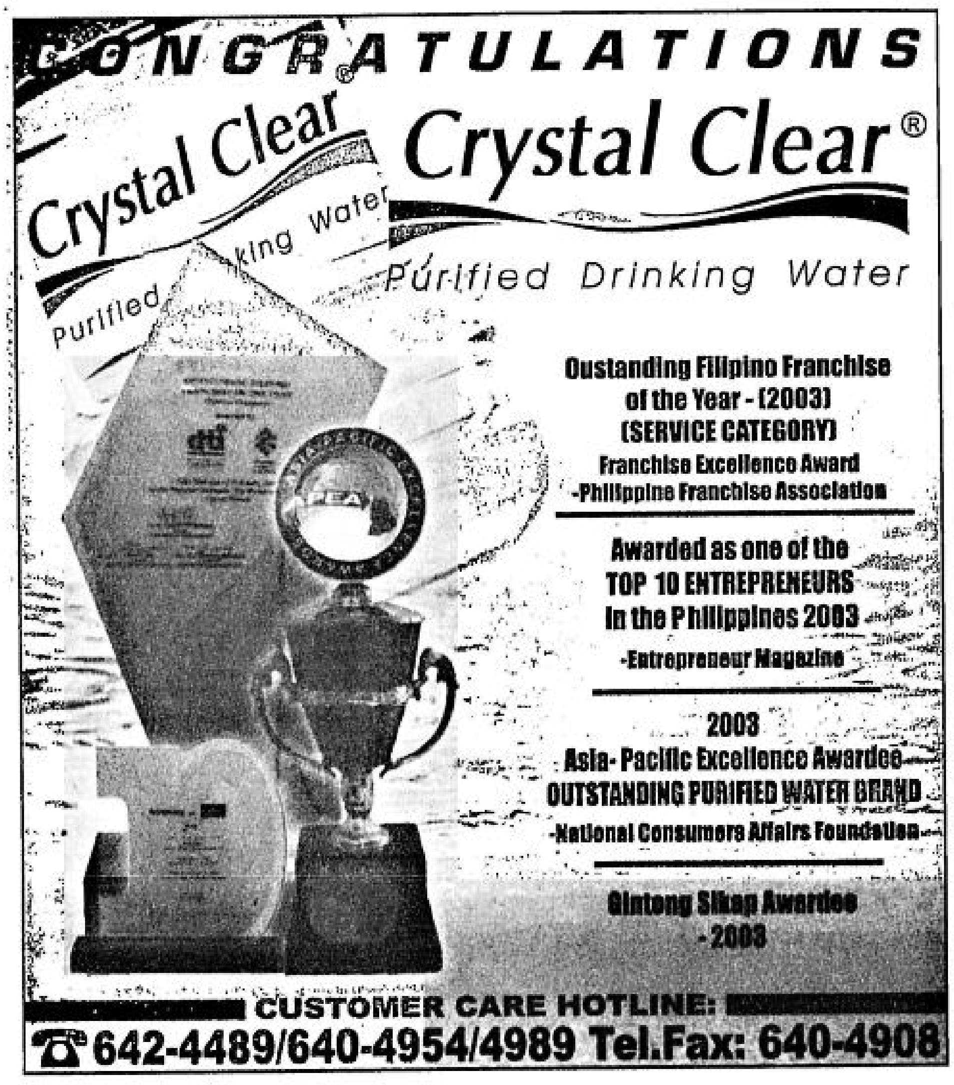

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# Muslim women rap Jinggoy for remarks

**By Nash B. Maulana**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

COTABATO CITY—A group of Moro women lambasted senatorial candidate Jinggoy Estrada for alleged insensitive remarks he made about Muslim women during a recent political rally here of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Estrada told the crowd that he envied Muslim men because of their beautiful women. He said he wanted his "next mate" to come from this city.

The former San Juan mayor also said he has closely followed in the footsteps of his father, former president Joseph Estrada.

"When my dad grew his moustache, I grew mine. He has a fat belly, so do I. He became mayor of San Juan and so did I. When he went to jail, I was also locked up with him. He had many chicks (women), I also had a number of chicks myself," he said in Filipino.

Tarhata Maglangit-Majelon, one of the convenors of the March 17 Bangsamoro Women's Congress, said Estrada was insensitive to local tradition and culture.

Estrada may have forgotten that he was in "a conservative and sensitive culture. (He probably thought) he was still in Ermita or in movielandia, window shopping for flesh," Majelon said.

The Moro women were holding a convention at the Estosan Garden Hotel here when they recorded part of Estrada's speech which contained the insensitive remarks.

# Butchoy strands 6,000; forces GMA to cancel sortie

LEGAZPI CITY—Rains and winds unleashed by storm Butchoy yesterday stranded more than 6,000 passengers in Bicol and the Visayas and forced President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel a campaign sortie in Tacloban.

With winds gusting up to 100 kph, Butchoy was located at 4 p.m. at 70 km east-northeast of Virac, Catanduanes, and moving on a northwesterly track at 15 kph, the weather bureau said. No casualties have been reported.

As of 2 p.m., a total of 5,431 passengers have been stranded in the main ports of Bicol, the region's Office of Civil Defense said. The biggest number of stranded passengers, exceeding 3,000, were in Matnog, Sorsogon.

The threat from Butchoy forced Ms Macapagal to postpone her visit to Tacloban, where she was to open the Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association meet. *Gil Francis G. Arevelo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau.*

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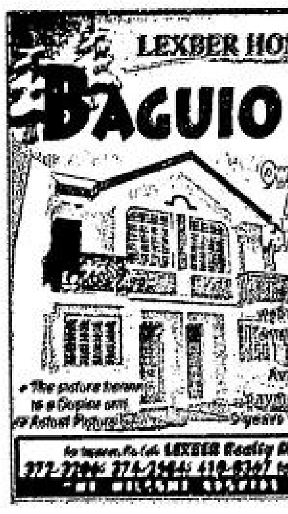

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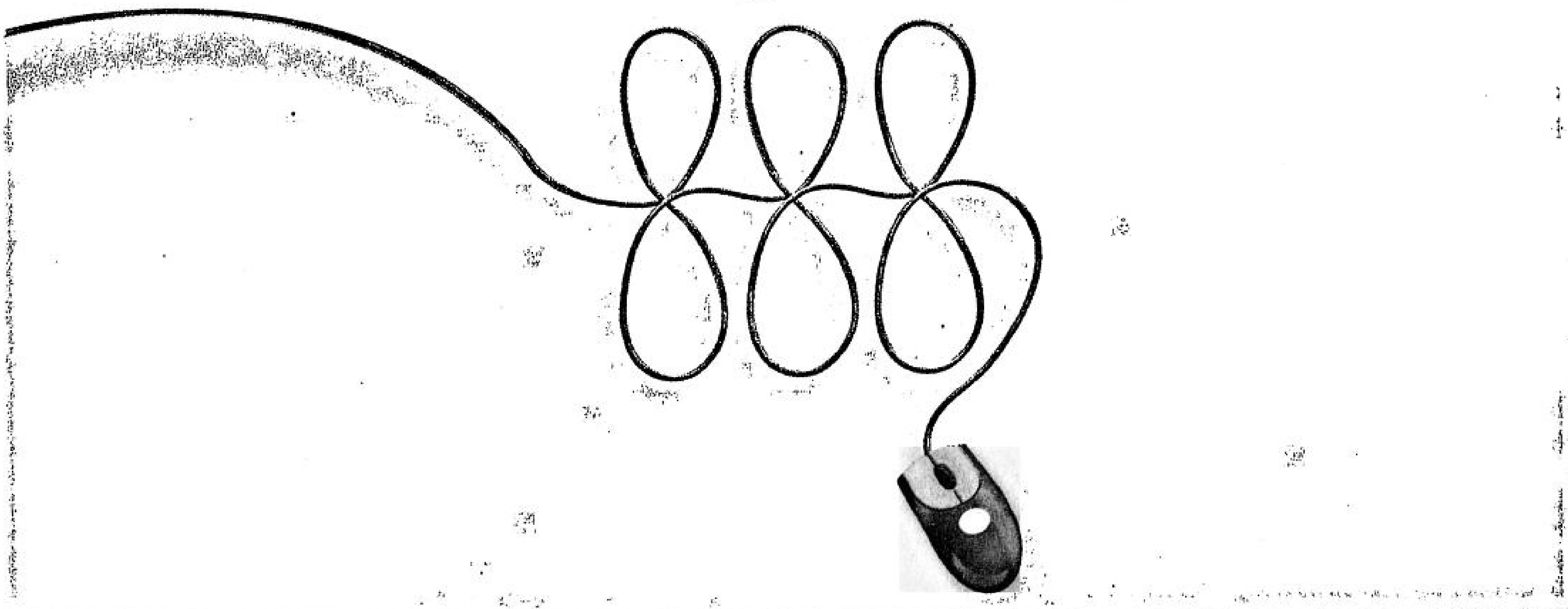

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## THE CHARM OFFENSIVE

PATRICK CASTILLO/PCPO MALACAÑANG PHOTO

**PASAY CITY:** Junking the two thumbs-up sign to symbolize the K4's upbeat and optimistic campaign, the President prefers the simple hand wave "because it's me."

VAL HANDUMON

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY:** She could have communicated more, she said, but the President makes up for lost time as she reaches out to Palaweños at a political rally here recently.

# Spontaneous visits but a smoothie to last detail

From page A1

her day by reading a passage from the Bible and paying a visit to the Palace chapel. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's destination: Bulacan, a ballot-rich province with a 1.4 million voting population she intends to woo.

These days, she has chosen to be more circumspect, after mounting criticism that she was spending more time campaigning than managing the affairs of the state landed on the front page and in broadcast news. The President's schedule was later revised, with three to four days of the week allotted to governance, and the remaining days left for the sorties.

Corazon Soliman doesn't understand what the fuss is all about. "This is a unique situation that we have now, having an incumbent running for office," says the Social Welfare secretary who helped set up the system for the campaign organization network that she later turned over to campaign spokesperson Michael Defensor, on leave from his post as Housing secretary." It has not happened since President Marcos' time. My belief is that when a candidate is an incumbent, he or she does not stop being a president.

"You can't stop people from asking her questions about her programs, what she has done, and what more she can do. As far as we know, the President has followed the Commission on Elections guidelines," she says.

Schedules on where to go are worked out by a team composed of the campaign sortie head, the campaign manager and K4 campaign consultants—who sometimes join the sorties accompanied by a team from the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and of course, the ever-present Presidential Security Guard (PSG), and the Palace media group.

### Homework first

"We do our homework first," explains Defensor. "It's all very scientific. We use surveys based on the strengths and weaknesses of a particular place, the makeup of its voters. Then, we go in."

Paying close attention to the voters' profile, temperament, and attitudes is important because it serves as guideline to the next step, adds Gabriel Claudio, Ms Macapagal's campaign manager and head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (on leave). "One of our biggest advantages is that we were also involved in the 1998 campaign when she was running for vice president. We have learned our lessons well," he says.

Soliman stresses that they don't look into places known to be administration bailiwicks as easy-as-pie ventures, but rather as incursions into "areas of challenge. We don't want to take any chances."

Adds the Social Welfare head, known for her strong background in non-government organization networking and community organizing: "We are data-guided and not only make use of in-house surveys but also that of the Social Weather Station (SWS) and Pulse Asia."

Junking the idea that future SWS surveys could be rigged in opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr's favor because SWS head Mahar Mangahas is the actor's first cousin, Soliman squelches the speculation. Previous results showed Poe leading the pack with Ms Macapagal coming in a close second, but the latest survey showed her catching up with her closest rival.

"I know Mahar personally, and I believe in his integrity," she says. "Besides, this is 2004, not 1998. This is a thinking man's vote."

### First stop

The President arrives in San Miguel, Bulacan, in a helicopter, escorted by two others, landing at the track oval of the San Miguel High School. This is the first stopover in a series of whistlestop tours of the province. The students are let out for the day, presumably to rehearse for their forthcoming junior-senior prom, but many turn up at the oval, excited to see their honored guest.

Onto the second week of the campaign, hearts are high and spirits are light among those who join the GMA convoy, encouraged by favorable turnouts in other stops. The K4 and its standard-bearer launched their campaign in Cavinti (Laguna) early February because it wanted to start on a "high moral ground," literally. Claudio says the move was symbolic, since Cavinti, indeed, stands on "high ground."

The schoolgirls, not yet of voting age, declare their preference "for Gloria," but a few teenage boys keeping a respectable distance from the whirr of the choppers and the swirling dust, say they would vote for FPJ, "our idol" if they could. But for now, the visit was memorable because it is the first time they've seen a President up close.

Housewives working as farmhands leave their jobs for a few hours, and walk several kilometers to town, hoping to see their candidate for President "*kahit walang bigay na T-shirt at pagkain* (Even if we didn't get any free T-shirts and food)."

### Spontaneous visits

Like most of her other engagements, this visit is short and crisp, ending sooner than expected after the President meets briefly with local officials who promptly declare Bulacan "GMA territory." She is on time, but doesn't follow the itinerary of the day, a nightmare for her PSG escorts.

Skipping the market tours, she makes an unscheduled stops at several *barangay* riding a pickup, reaching out and shaking hands with the crowds that have collected on the roads blooming with signs indicating that the infrastructure is a Gloria "*Kalye Natin, Alagaan Natin*" construction project.

These detours that campaign coordinator Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara calls "spontaneous visits," show what the "real Gloria" is all about: she hugs children, embraces crying housewives, and stops by the riverside to talk to a couple of girls on their way to bring lunch to their fathers in the field. "This is flesh-to-flesh contact, and I assure you it's not a put-on," says Kashiwahara.

The convoy breezes through San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Baliuag and Pulilan before it makes a longer stop in Malolos, home of the historic Barasoain church, venue of the 1898 Malolos Congress. It is also the hometown of the late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, whose house was opened up for a meeting between the President and farmer-leaders of Bulacan.

A press conference was organized for both the national and local press in Pulilan at a restaurant where the President is welcomed by Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz, Vice Gov. Rely Palamenco, and other Bulacan natives like Rep. Willie Villarama and then Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan (now tourism secretary).

They will later be joined by some of the members of her senatorial slate: Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Jaworski, and John Osmeña, and first-timers Bong Revilla, Lito Lapid, Pia Cayetano and Mar Roxas.

### A question for Mar Roxas

This is the only chance Malacañang reporters on the campaign trail get to interview the President because we are told she does not entertain questions in any other venue. Most of them, however, could not refrain from asking their first question of the day addressed to Mar Roxas before the press conference officially started: "Is it true you proposed to (broadcaster) Korina Sanchez? His evasive answer: "I proposed for the K4 slate."

In Pulilan, Ms Macapagal would enumerate the achievements of her administration, and repeat the promise she made earlier about creating jobs for her countrymen if elected: "I promise you 6 million jobs in the next six years!"

Known for trimming down her campaign speeches, the President says she writes these herself; when she is given a prepared spiel, chances are she junks this in favor of the ad lib, with a few personal touches, like calling a mayor by his nickname, or evoking childhood memories of places she visited and places lived in her peripatetic childhood.

JERRY CARUAL/PCPO MALACAÑANG PHOTO

**URDANETA CITY:** The "real Gloria" is a touchy-feely person who doesn't mind being crushed in the crowd, much to the discomfort of her Presidential Security Guard escorts.

### Ad lib

"There is a lot of ad lib, and this is dictated by the President's own political instincts honed from previous experiences," says Claudio.

In Meycauayan, for instance, she starts with a little speech on how she remembers passing by the area when families like hers travelled the old route to Baguio, she would know they were in town because of the strong smell of cow hide stacked in its tanneries.

A plus point is her flair for languages and dialects: the President speaks seven: *Ilokano, Pangalatok, Kapampangan, Cebuano, Filipino, Ilonggo, and Chabacano.* ("And when she wants to say something private, if Mike Arroyo is around, they speak in Spanish," notes Soliman). It does make for an impressive start when you need to connect with an audience on the verge of straying, or hold a crowd used to wriggling dancers or sexy starlets which the GMA road show does not have, or has little of.

At the Barasoain churchyard where there is a *fiesta* atmosphere in progress, with dancers in ethnic costumes standing by and raucous music blaring from the town's marching bands, Villarama waits for the 3:30 p.m. Mass to be over, together with Rene Simbulan, the President's campaign manager in Bulacan.

Inside the church, the bishop exhorts the people "not to vote for personalities or for those who have high survey ratings, but according to your convictions and for who you think is best for the job." The President sits in the front pew and looks pleased when he ends his sermon by saying: "Be the last of all, but the servant of all."

Built in 1859, the church was not only the site of the 1898 Malolos Congress—it was also where Joseph Estrada took his oath of office as President one hundred years later—with best friend Fernando Poe Jr. among the more prominent guests in attendance.

Simbulan believes Bulacan will deliver the votes for Ms Macapagal "because Bulakeños, like most Filipinos, are intelligent voters." Villarama agrees. "*Si FPJ pinagkakaguluhan dahil sa artista, ang Presidente, dahil sa kakayahan* (FPJ is mobbed because of his star entourage, but people are drawn to the President because of her experience in governance)." She is also supposed to be like her father, he adds, who was reputed to be "*walang kapaguran sa kaiikot para makilala ang tao* (tirelessly making the rounds to meet people)."

### Last stop

The last stopover is Meycauayan, where she would hold a *Pulong Bayan*, a version of the town hall meeting that she revived two years ago, according to Claudio, but which apparently has not been noticed too much by the media.

Soliman, who laid the groundwork for linking up sectoral groups of farmers, fishermen and others who want to help the President with the campaign strategists, says the heart of the President's campaign is the *Pulong*, a "more intimate" environment for threshing out important issues without the hoopla and the shouting characteristic of big gatherings. There, too, ordinary folk get to ask her questions other people would have been too intimidated to ask like, 'Who was your Valentine?' recalls Soliman.

In the Meycauayan *Pulong*, for instance, a woman asked the President how it was like spending her teenage years in Malacañang, and what her favorite diversions were. Watching movies, was her answer. (The President also told the *Inquirer* that she loved listening to the Beach Boys and the Beatles, and that she played the piano, with Beethoven's "Fur Elise" as one of her favorite pieces).

### February 20: Zambales

The campaign sortie starts on a more leisurely pace today. Travel time is estimated at four hours because the destination is Zambales, with the provincial capital Iba as the first stop, and the proclamation rally of senatorial bet (and former Tourism Secretary) Richard Gordon, Olongapo City's favorite son, at the city's Rizal Triangle Covered Court as the finale.

Francis Manglapus, in charge of the *Pulong Bayan* in Iba, makes the distinction between the *Pulong* and the rally, in answer to growing criticism that Ms Macapagal had been using all the resources in her power to push her presidential bid, under the guise of governance.

"You don't see any posters here, no flyers or campaign leaflets around," Manglapus says, urging us to survey the Iba covered court where the meeting would take place. "That's campaigning, for sure, but today is strictly for governance. You also don't see any candidates around, and nobody is raising anybody's hands. That would be the proclamation rally for Dick Gordon tonight in Olongapo."

When we tell him that the President arrived with several candidates in her senatorial ticket at the Meycauayan *Pulong* the day before, he tells us sheepishly that she wasn't supposed to do that, but then again, he suggests, the candidates might have dropped by from their own sorties and decided to meet up with the President in the *Pulong*.

### Like Mel and Jay

Ms Macapagal arrives right on schedule, with her vice presidential candidate Noli de Castro in tow. De Castro introduces Ms Macapagal, and they have an

SPONTANEOUS A21

## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Taiwan's Chen wins tight race

**TAIPEI, Taiwan—President Chen Shui-bian won a tight election Saturday, a day after surviving an assassination attempt, Taiwan's ruling party claimed.**

**CHEN casting his ballot yesterday.** REUTERS

Taiwanese voted separately on a referendum asking if Taiwan should beef up defenses if China refuses to withdraw missiles targeting the territory and whether to seek peace talks with Beijing. Those results were expected later Saturday.

Fireworks boomed in the night sky as ruling party lawmaker Hsiao Bi-khim told supporters at Chen's headquarters, "We've proved to the world that we've won. Today's victory is a victory for democracy and a victory for Asia."

Official results were not in, but unofficial results reported by TVBS cable news said Chen squeaked by with about 50,000 more votes than Nationalist Party leader Lien Chan after a cliffhanger of a campaign. A total of about 13 million ballots were cast, the station said.

Lien didn't immediately concede defeat, but demanded a recount. "We want to raise a motion to declare the election invalid," he told thousands of cheering supporters outside his campaign headquarters.

"We ask the central election commission to seize and seal all ballot boxes," he added.

On the eve of the vote, gunfire hit Chen in the abdomen and Vice President Annette Lu in the knee as they rode through the southern town of Tainan, waving to supporters from an open-top Jeep.

Neither leader was seriously wounded, and some Nationalist leaders said the shooting helped Chen win crucial pity votes in the tight race.

"A bullet was fired at President Chen, but it ended up hurting us," said Jason Hu, mayor of Taichung, Taiwan's third-largest city.

But Joseph Wu, a senior Presidential Office official, said that "there were no sympathy votes." Wu said his party's internal polls showed Chen leading by 2 percentage points before the shots were fired.

The shooting was being treated as a criminal case—not a conspiracy or an attack that involved China, prosecutor Wang Sen-jung said Saturday. No suspects have been identified.

Earlier Saturday, Chen slowly strolled into a voting station in the capital, Taipei, surrounded by bodyguards armed with submachine guns. He walked stiffly, looking wan and serious. He smiled slightly as he dropped his ballot in the box and told reporters that gunshots would never derail Taiwan's democracy.

"It doesn't matter where the bullet came from, A-bian won't be struck down," Chen said, referring to himself by his nickname. "And even if I were struck down, this could not strike down the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people for democracy and liberty."

After he voted, Lien, an ex-vice president, urged voters not to be swayed by their emotions. "We must be brave and calm," he said.

Chinese leaders have denounced the referendum, which they fear is a rehearsal for a vote on Taiwanese independence. The two sides split when the communists took over the Chinese mainland in 1949. Beijing wants Taiwan to rejoin the mainland and has threatened to attack if Taiwan seeks a permanent split. *AP, Reuters*

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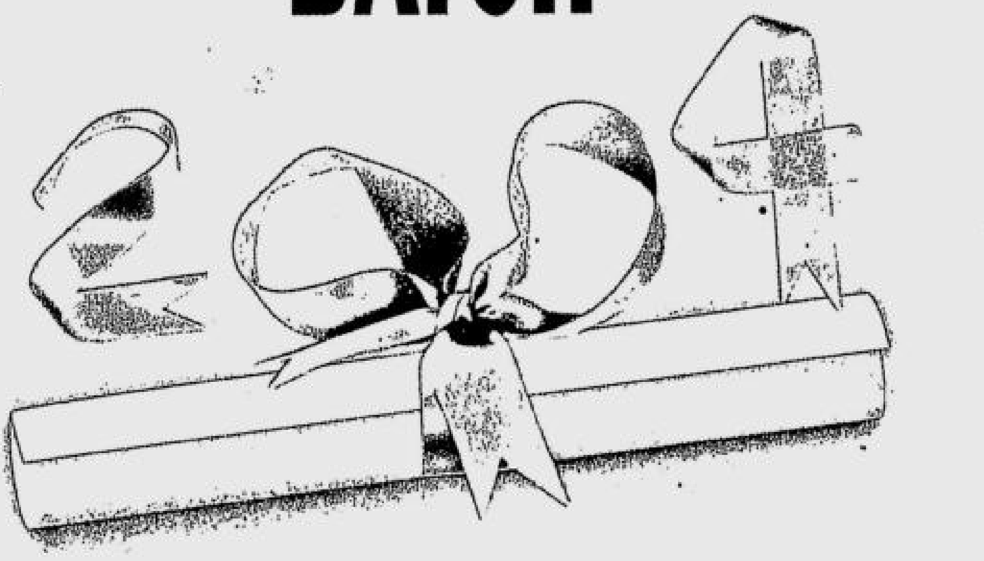

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| **SEC. GUILLERMO DE VEGA** | Thursday, April 29, 2004 | Friday, April 30, 2004 |

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# Pakistan to al-Qaida fighters: Surrender or die

WANA, Pakistan—Pakistan troops and helicopters rained fire on Islamic militants and their tribal allies thought to be sheltering Osama bin laden's deputy, saying on Saturday they must surrender or die.

Throughout the night, the military shelled and fired mortar bombs at up to 400 al-Qaida fighters and Pakistani tribesman holding out in well-fortified compounds in Pakistan's wild South Warizistan tribal area near the border with Afghanistan.

"They cannot escape... Either they surrender or they get eliminated," military spokesperson Major-General Shaukat Sultan told CNN.

Pakistani forces say the fierce defense the militants have mounted since the battle began on Tuesday suggested they were protecting a "high-value target", possibly bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

But no official has confirmed he is among those encircled.

The offensive, involving several thousand soldiers, is the biggest Pakistan has fought since it joined the US-led war on terror after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"There was no pause in the firing," a resident of the nearby town of Wana said just after dawn. "Our houses were shaking." Helicopter gunships and artillery were firing to the east of Wana, the resident said. The battle has been fought to the west of the town and it was not immediately clear what they were attacking.

Zawahri, an Egyptian doctor, is regarded as the brains of al-Qaida. He is thought to be one of the key figures behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

The capture of one of the world's most wanted men would be a major coup for the United States, under fire over its rationale for the war in Iraq. Saturday is the first anniversary of the start of that conflict.

Western intelligence sources say Zawahri and Bin Laden are believed to be close to each other, somewhere in Pakistan's often lawless and largely autonomous tribal lands.

Pakistani officials have said Bin Laden is not believed to be among the besieged fighters.

Two Chechen militants, identified as Danyar and Quaran Ata, were believed to be leading hundreds of foreign fighters in the area and there was a possibility a prominent Uzbek militant, Tahir Yaldashev, was with them, one intelligence source said.

The rebels have no way of replenishing their ammunition, Pakistani officials have said. Sultan said he expected the battle to be over soon.

About a dozen Americans are giving technical assistance in intelligence gathering but no US ground troops are involved, the military said.

*Reuters*

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Lunch Break
**Exhibit Opening Ceremonies**
**Concurrent Paper Presentations**
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Lunch Break
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2. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur **auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden.** Einem Antrag, der erst am 24. Mai 2004 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 17 Abs. 1 der Europawahlordnung).

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Manila, den 08. März 2004

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# 3 Moroccans accused of mass murder

MADRID—Three Moroccans detained after the Madrid train bombings were accused in court of 190 murders on Friday, but they denied any links to al-Qaida and said they were asleep at the time of the attacks.

After a gruelling seven-hour overnight hearing at Madrid's High Court, the three Moroccans were also accused of 1,400 attempted murders and of belonging to a terrorist group.

Two other suspects, both Indians, were accused of cooperating with a terrorist group, court sources said.

All five suspects, arrested two days after the March 11 rail bombings that killed 202 people and wounded more than 1,800, were ordered held in solitary confinement after a court hearing that finished at 4 a.m. (0300 GMT).

The attacks on four commuter trains, the bloodiest linked to al-Qaida since the Bali bombings in 2002, have been claimed by a militant Islamic group aligning itself to al-Qaida. All five suspects denied involvement in the strikes.

One of the Moroccans seen as a main suspect—Jamal Zougam—wept in court before returning to pray in his cell, the sources said. Another, Mohamed Bekkali, shouted he was innocent.

"They have all said that when the attack took place on March 11 they were sleeping in their respective homes," a court source said. "They say they don't have any link with al-Qaida or any terrorist organisation." There was no immediate explanation for why they were accused of 190 murders. It may relate to the number of bodies identified.

The Madrid blasts sparked a security shake-up in Europe and beyond. European Union ministers agreed at emergency talks on Friday to appoint an antiterrorism coordinator and to boost intelligence-sharing.

French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said the intelligence chiefs of Spain, France, Britain, Germany and Italy would meet in Madrid on Monday.

Zougam, his half brother Mohamed Chaoui and Bekkali were detained at a telephone shop run by Zougam in Madrid.

Investigators have said an unexploded bomb found on one of the trains, containing a mobile phone that would have been used to activate the bomb, provided valuable clues.

The Moroccans are also accused of four "terrorist acts", presumably one for each train bombed, and stealing a vehicle.

As well as cooperating with extremists, the two Indians, Suresh Kumar and Vinay Khohy, were accused of forging documents. *Reuters*

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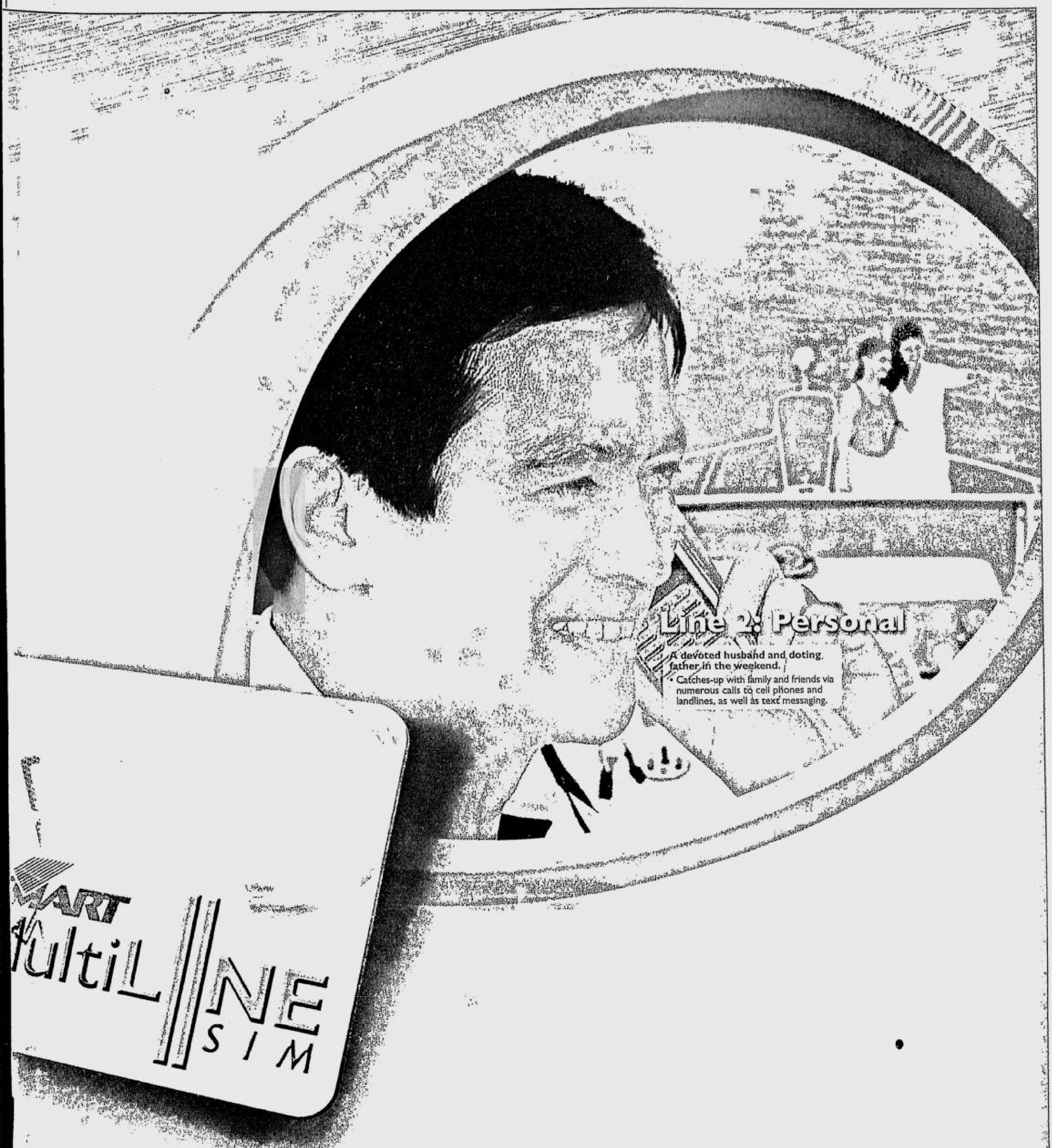

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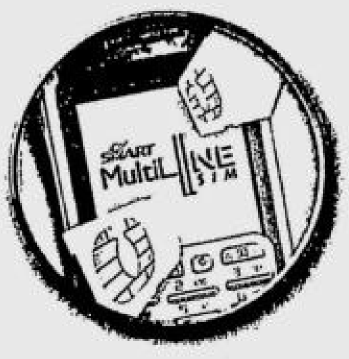

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# Family planning 'vote'

**EDITORIAL**

THE REPORT from Agence France Presse the other day called attention to the unusual sound of silence surrounding one issue in this year's boisterous election season. "In the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, birth control is a subject the main presidential contenders have chosen to quietly ignore."

The reason is easy enough to see: "family planning" is the nearest thing to a "Catholic" issue. It is a proxy, and politicians courting the favor of the hundred-odd bishops in the country and the support of easy-to-mobilize church groups such as the Couples for Christ movement instinctively know to finesse the issue.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and ex-senator Raul Roco say it is a matter best left to the individual conscience. Opposition coalition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. says, or is reported by his many spokespersons as saying, that the matter is still under study. Behind these carefully calculated statements is the obvious attempt not to antagonize the Catholic population.

Their stance mirrors the essentially negative value of the much-debated Catholic vote. That vote is not cohesive enough to send someone to high public office, but it is substantial enough to deny candidates victory at the polls, or at least make it difficult for them to succeed. Politics is addition, the late Senate President Amang Rodriguez famously said. It's time to add to that axiom the Juan Flavier corollary. Politics is addition, but the Catholic vote is subtraction.

Flavier would have topped the Senate elections in 1995, when he was at the height of his popularity as a condom-dispensing, anti-smoking, wisecracking health secretary. The surveys showed him topping the list again and again. But enough Catholic voters withheld their votes from him to cause him to land in the middle of the heap. He made it to the Senate then, and again in 2001, but his numbers were weighed down by the anti-contraception opposition.

"The Church is a powerful force in Philippine political life," Flavier said earlier this month. "In an election year, it is normal for candidates to make statements that are not antagonistic or will not draw violent reactions from the Church."

It is remarkable, therefore, that the two other presidential candidates in this election are advocating radical population control policies. (Radical, that is, given the Philippine context.) Sen. Panfilo Lacson wants a two-children policy for new families, while evangelist Eddie Villanueva supports

"modern" family planning methods but draws the line at abortion.

Both proceed from the inescapable: The country's population growth rate of 2.36 percent is the highest in Asia, and adds some 1.7 million more mouths to feed every year.

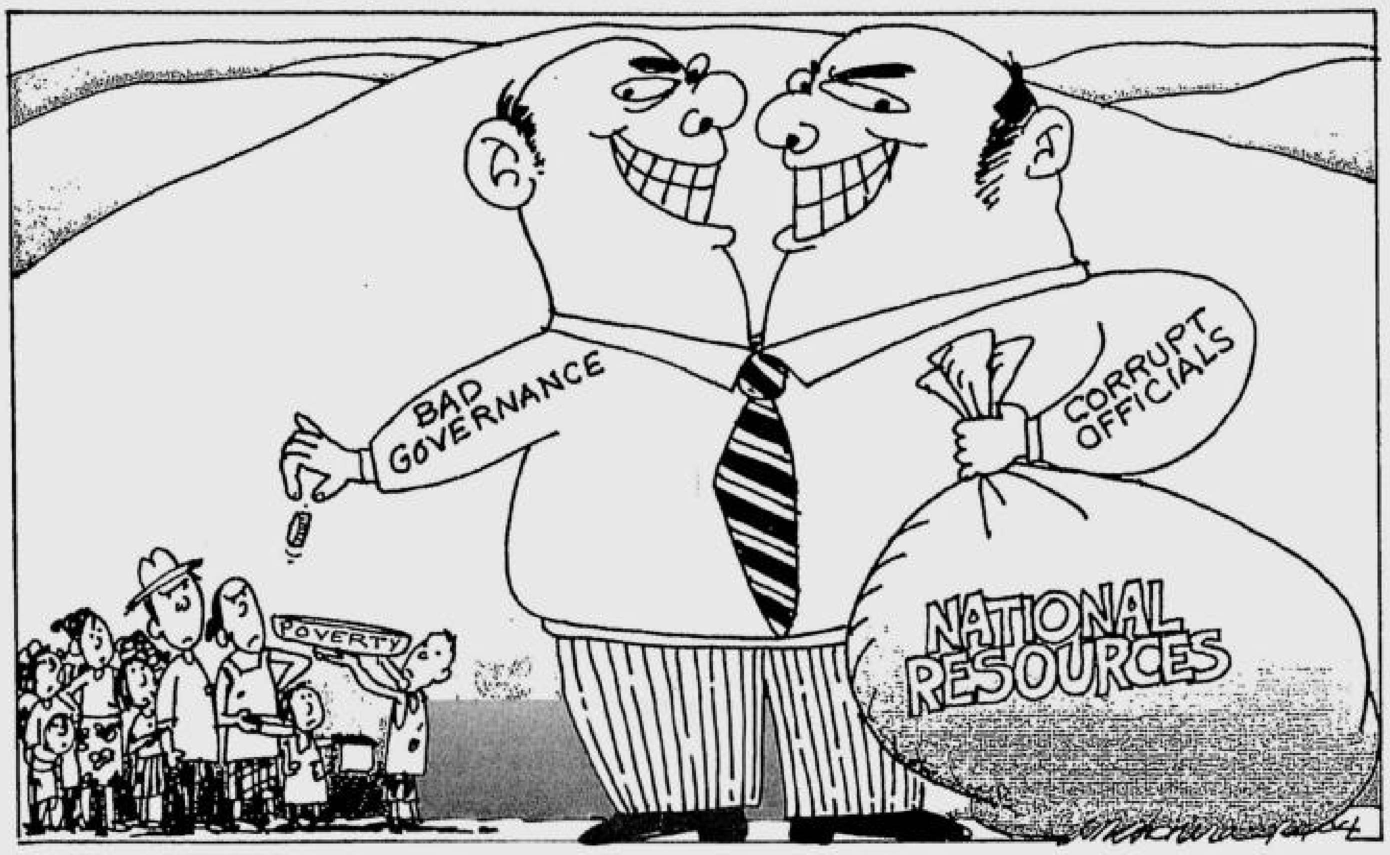
"Our population growth is getting out of control. There is going to be an explosion. We are approaching a breaking point," said Fred Magbanua, a Protestant pastor of Villanueva's Jesus Is Lord Movement.

"I want to slow our population explosion. We'd be anti-life if we cannot feed children. It's a matter open to interpretation," Lacson told reporters in Cebu the other week. "We have to find a way to control population growth without resorting to violence."

This is not the time to quarrel with the basic fallacy at the heart of their argument (they simplistically extrapolate from current data to draw a bleak future scenario). The situation today is dire enough, so their proposals are welcome. If their proposed policies ignite a debate, end the reign of silence and ignorance surrounding the issue, they would have done the country a signal service.

In terms of campaign strategy, Lacson and Villanueva's contrarian position on the whole vexing issue of birth control makes eminent sense. Both base their victory assumptions on the hope that they will benefit from a swing vote in a tight, multi-candidate race.

Villanueva, the founder of the Jesus is Lord movement, is banking on the support of his Protestant flock, which numbers around 2 million, and which he expects to attract 4 million more like-minded voters. Lacson is playing the Iglesia ni Cristo card, which may have as many as 5-6 million command votes. None of these potential voting blocs, it is safe to say, need worry about the politics of subtraction.



# Candidate Gloria

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo is bent on exhausting all the available resources of the government to advance her candidacy for President of the Philippines in her own right. She is taking undue advantage of her accidental presidency to out-propagandize her rivals, who do not have the apparatus of the Government of the Republic itself to blow their own trumpets.

As head of that government, Gloria can claim credit for its every supposed achievement as in the full-page advertisements from the Government Service Insurance System proclaiming the availability of loans to its members within record time. President Macapagal's picture is displayed prominently in these announcements although the former delay also happened during her incumbency and should have been corrected earlier. The advertisements are paid for from the funds of the GSIS, which are public in nature but are being spent for the obvious benefit of Candidate Gloria.

Another full-page advertisement screams "Thank you President GLORIA and Pag-ibig Fund" for supposed reforms in the housing sector which could also have been made earlier during her term. Now they are being claimed as another triumph of Candidate Gloria, whose picture dominates the page and urges the readers to vote for their smiling President. The advertisement betrays its real purpose when it fawns on its real beneficiary in big bold letters: "IPAGPATULOY ANG INYONG PAGLILINGKOD!" The message to vote for La Gloria this coming May is paid for from the Pag-ibig Fund, which is also public in nature.

La Gloria is now accused of distributing at random PhilHealth cards during her campaigns without regard to the receivers' entitlement. The card also carries her picture, to remind everyone that she is a candidate in the coming elections and deserves the support of the electorate for her concern for the health of the people, especially the indigent. PhilHealth shares in the payment of the medical, hospitalization and other expenses of the patients with funds contributed by its members and the government, particularly the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. This privilege is now available to the non-members who have received at random PhilHealth cards Candidate Gloria has generously distributed.

Candidate Gloria is also faulted for allegedly ordering the house arrest of Joseph Estrada at his retreat in Tanay, Rizal, where he even attended or hosted a birthday party for his son Jinggoy. Many guests were present, including candidates from Fernando Poe Jr.'s opposition party. When the special privilege was exposed, President Macapagal denied having a hand in it but at the same time said Erap deserved extraordinary treatment as a former President of the Philippines. There was strong suspicion, though, that her real reason was to curry favor with the Estrada loyalists who are supposed to be on Poe's side.

The recent pardon of Alberto "Ambet" Antonio, a close friend of Erap serving a 14-year sentence for the killing of Arnulfo Tuadles over a gambling debt, elicited similar suspicion. The venue of the crime was a place reputedly owned by Estrada and frequented by his gambling cronies. Report of the executive clemency exercised by Candidate Gloria raised speculations that it was intended not so much to benefit the prisoner but as another effort to neutralize or at least diminish Erap's support for FPJ, who may dislodge her in Malacañang.

The walls in Metro Manila are now being plastered with illegal posters, among them those of Candidate Gloria, who as President of the Philippines is obliged by the Constitution to "ensure that the laws be faithfully executed." She is one of the most prominent violators of the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code regulating the size of posters and the places where they may be pasted. While it is true that it is the Commission on Elections that has the direct obligation to prevent and punish the plastering of illegal posters, she nevertheless has the duty, as chief executive, to help the Comelec discharge this function. The least she can do is warn and discipline her own followers from flouting the law when they should be respecting and obeying it.

A petition has been filed with the Supreme Court to disqualify Candidate Gloria for violations of the election laws to advance her candidacy, including abuse of presidential powers, illegal use of government funds and property, and disregard of the statutory limitations of radio and television time for political propaganda. There is not much hope for its success, however, considering that the respondent is not an ordinary candidate but the present President of the Philippines, who enjoys special immunities. She has a strong chance of winning next May, and for a full term this time, during which those who are opposing her now may well fear her retaliation.

I remember the presidential election of 1946 when Sergio Osmeña Sr. chose to stay in Malacañang to attend to his official duties instead of campaigning throughout the land like his adversary. Don Sergio lost his last hurrah, but he won the nation's praise for acting like a President and not as a private candidate abusing his official privileges.

# Really?

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY is told about a wife who, while preparing breakfast for her husband one morning, said "Honey, you should help me in household tasks. Don't you know that even in the Bible the husbands prepared the coffee for the family?" "Oh yeah? Where in the Bible do you see that?" asked the husband. With a smile, the wife got the Bible and pointed out "HE BREWS."

* * *

**Women were subservient to men in the patriarchal setup of the Judaic society, that's why, it was unthinkable that the men would help in the household tasks. In the same way, we see in today's Gospel, (Lk. 15, 1-3; 11-32) the unthinkable and unexpected reaction of the loving father who forgave and welcomed his wayward son. The normal reaction would have been outright rejection, or at least, a scolding to teach the prodigal son a lesson. But no, the father embraces his son, and even throws out a welcome party for him who came home. This is really beyond all expectation and imagination. But God is like that. Grace is like that. Instead of questioning the love of God with our limited understanding, we should just be grateful and celebrate God's love. If you keep questioning God's way of "doing things," maybe you have not really fathomed the height and the breadth and the depth of God's love for you and for me. As somebody once pointed out, even if all the Gospel parables were lost, but the parable of the prodigal son was preserved, we would still have the very core of the Gospel message.**

* * *

The problem with us is that we tend to limit God's love for us, and for others, too. That's because we use our own standards and impose them on God Himself. That we are loved and that we are loveable has been the constant message of God, and yet, we continue to be cold, indifferent and incredulous to it. "Really?" "*Talaga?*" "Too good to be true!" "Isn't that presumptuous?" When it comes to our relationship with God, it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love.

* * *

**In my own life, I can only say that if I did not really believe in God's unconditional love, I would not have become a priest, and would have left the ministry already because of my unworthiness. I have been forgiven much. The goodness I have done is nothing compared to the goodness of God in my life. I can't help but be grateful for His blessings. But, more than His blessings, I thank God for His mercy and forgiveness through the years. And so it is that I have come to accept too that my sins and failures are nothing compared to God's mercy, understanding and compassion. Blessed and forgiven, I can only be humble and grateful. If you have not experienced and accepted God as a loving and forgiving God, then you have not really experienced God. Maybe that is why you are so unforgiving of others and of yourself.**

* * *

I experienced once again the Father's love on two encounters this week. The first was when I blessed the lifeless body of Fr. Bon Guanlao, a confrere who left the ministry some years ago. As I stood there and prayed for the repose of his soul, deep in my heart I knew that he has gone home to the embrace of the loving Father. In death, a lot of could have beens and should have beens don't matter as much anymore as the could be's and the should be's. Who are we to judge, more so, who are we to limit God's tremendous love and mercy? Let us continue to trust and believe that we are all loved, more than we know, more than we realize, more than we allow ourselves to be loved by God.

* * *

**The other encounter was with Fr. Caloy Rodriguez, a confrere who joined the Trappists some 20 years ago. I was so happy to meet again in this life this gentle and happy person who has always been a living reminder of the Father's welcoming and warm love. This 61-year-old priest who loved to smoke, drink, eat, and most of all talk, was the most unlikely person to enter the monastery, where they live simple, austere and silent lives. He left everything and obeyed. What struck me in our encounter was that this man has really experienced God. In the 24 years that he was with the SVD, I knew him as a good preacher, professor and speaker who had many dynamic ideas about God. Talking with him last Wednesday morning, I knew I was talking to a person who was filled not only with ideas about God, but a person who has truly experienced God in the silence and in the darkness.**

**Indeed, it is in our hearts and on our knees that we truly know who we really are, and who God really is. May we always be open to God and to His way of "doing things." May we not think of Him or speak of Him, according to our own image and liking.**

* * *

When was the last time you allowed the Father to embrace you and whisper to you again "Be still, and know that I am God"? Whoever you are, whoever you think you are, whatever you have been, whatever you're going through right now, you are loved. Really? Really!

* * *

**A Moment with the Lord**

*Lord, instead of constantly doubting (REALLY?), help me to be filled with hope and thanksgiving (REALLY!). Amen.*

# They must take us for fools

## REVEILLE

*Ramon J. Farolan*

LAST Sunday, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) came out with another full-page advertisement. Just in case you missed it and are unaware of what the GSIS has lined up for our workers in the public sector, this is what was announced:

**Kulang ka ba sa budget?**
**No Problem!**
**Dahil nandito na ang**
**GSIS S.O.S. Loan!**

Strictly speaking S.O.S. is the maritime code which means "Save Our Ship" but in its broadest terms, it is a request for assistance in an emergency situation. This could mean that the ship of state is sinking and all government workers must help in keeping it afloat. "Save Our Ship" and there's a loan available just in case you need one.

The advertisement with the picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the bottom continues:

**Sa S.O.S. (Summer One-Month**
**Salary) Loan...**
**· Mababa ang interest rates**
**(low interest rates)**
**1% lang bawat buwan (1% per month)**
**· Magaan ang payment terms!**
**(easy payment terms)**
**Maaaring bayaran ang hiniram**
**hanggang 4 na taon**
**(payable up to 4 years)**

It proclaims that the S.O.S. arrangement is apart from the existing salary loan program. There are no difficult conditions attached which may delay the processing such as making sure you do not have overdue premiums or loan repayments or presenting evidence of payments not appearing in GSIS records. Everyone may apply, even those new in the service, and the S.O.S. loan is available starting March 15 onward. Get the point?

There's an old saying which goes: You can fool some of the people all the time. You can fool all of the people some of the time. But you can't fool all the people all the time, even with full-page advertisements paid for with workers' contributions. Obviously, this is a form of shameless vote-buying on a massive scale. Nothing new in the game as practiced by our politicians but precisely because we expect a higher level of statesmanship from presidential candidates, there is a feeling of frustration and cynicism among our people that the coming exercise will result in nothing more than the same old brand of politics which has dominated the national scene for decades. Too many compromises made; too many debts to be repaid, all in the name of reconciliation and national unity.

My advice to all government workers, especially the teachers who will again be on duty come election day—take full advantage of this election gimmick—flood the GSIS offices with your applications. Then on May 10, vote according to your conscience.

* * *

**On the slopes of Mt. Manunggal in Cebu some 47 years ago, we lost one of the most beloved of our presidents, Ramon Magsaysay. It was the late Rep. Tomas Cabili who brought him to the attention of President Elpidio Quirino and after his appointment as defense secretary, Magsaysay rallied a demoralized Armed Forces to a string of victories over the Hukbalahap (now the NPA), bringing hope and optimism to Filipinos.**

**Our great misfortune as a nation is that the leaders we need are with us for too short a time while those we don't need seem to be with us for eternity.**

* * *

History buffs will be interested to know that this month marks the 50th anniversary of the siege of Dienbienphu, an obscure frontier village on the border of Laos and North Vietnam. The writer, Bernard Fall, would call it "hell in a very small place." The capture of the French garrison by Viet Minh forces, led by Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, resulted in the partition of Vietnam at the 17th Parallel, a division which would be erased some 20 years later with the defeat of US and South Vietnamese forces.

The commander of the French garrison was a cavalry officer named Christian de Castries. Popular with women, he was a champion horseman, a pilot and commando veteran of World War II. Three strongholds were set up to defend the main French base: Beatrice, Gabrielle and Isabelle, all supposedly named after mistresses of De Castries. In Dienbienphu, the French found themselves in a valley dominated by mountains and dependent largely on airlifted supplies.

On the Vietnamese side, slowly but steadily Giap had gathered some 50,000 soldiers on the high ground around the base, including more than a hundred howitzers brought to the mountaintops by peasant manpower and reinforced bicycles. In three days of fighting, the three strongholds fell, one after the other. It was only a matter of time before the main camp would surrender.

The survival of the embattled French forces became an international issue with intervention being pressed on the United States and the United Kingdom. Even the use of atomic weapons was discussed but in the end, both the United States and the United Kingdom decided to stay out of the conflict, dooming the garrison at Dienbienphu. Less than 10 years later, US forces under Gen. William Westmoreland landed in Vietnam, only to suffer a similar fate as the French.

At 92, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, considered one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century, is preparing to commemorate the historic victory at Dienbienphu, a turning point in the fight for Vietnamese independence and nationhood. After decades of conflict, defeating two great western powers in the process, Vietnam is on its way to surpassing the Philippines in every measure of accomplishment.

# No shortage of dictators

## COMMENTARY

*Belinda A. Aquino*

HONOLULU—The world will probably never experience a shortage of dictators. They are in abundant supply. Saddam Hussein was flushed out of a hole in December looking like a rat. And now Aristide of Haiti has fled either to South Africa or the Central African Republic to escape being slaughtered by his own people.

However, while several dictators have fallen, others have taken their place. David Wallechinsky, Parade Magazine contributing editor, compiles a yearly list of "the World's 10 Worst Dictators." His ranking is based on consultations with independent human rights organizations willing to expose both left-wing and right-wing dictatorial regimes. The list includes Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, and Reporters Without Borders.

The 2004 "rogue's gallery" consists of the following from No. 1 to 10 "Worst": Kim Jong-il, North Korea; Than Shwe, Burma; Hu Jintao, China; Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe; Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia; Teodoro Obiang Nguema, Equatorial Guinea; Omar Al-Bashir, Sudan; Saparmurat Niyazob, Turkmenistan; Fidel Castro, Cuba; and King Mswati III, Swaziland.

If some of these names don't ring a bell, that's because they are the "rookie" dictators in this year's list replacing those who have fallen or been "rehabilitated." Saddam, of course, who was No. 3 Worst last year, is off the list. So is Charles Taylor of Liberia (No. 4), who gave up power voluntarily and is now in exile in Nigeria. Libya's Moammar Gadhafi (No. 8) and Belarus' Alexander Lukashenko (No. 10) are also released from ignominy not because, according to Wallechinsky, "they have improved but because other dictators have gotten worse." Dictatorship indeed is a matter of degree.

For the second time in a row, Kim Jong-il, 63, is the "world's worst dictator." His regime has been judged most repressive of its own people, "more completely than any other in the world." Freedom House has ranked North Korea as the "worst" in 31 straight years. Some dictators are indeed more durable than others.

Than Shwe, 71, was promoted from No. 5 "Worst" to No. 2 this year. He has survived a power struggle to emerge as undisputed leader of Burma's military junta. (Incidentally, the junta has changed the name of the country to Myanmar.) Shwe represents the "hard line" faction. Burma has the dubious distinction of having the biggest number of "child soldiers" in the world, and the regime has consistently harassed or arrested opposition leader, Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung-San Suu Kyi.

Hu Jintao, 61, was last year's "dishonorable mention" but is No. 2 Worst in 2004. While China has liberalized and its human rights record appears better than previously, the Communist Party, according to the raters, still controls all media and uses 30,000 "Internet Security Agents" to monitor online use. China also reportedly carries out 4,000 executions annually, more than all the other nations combined.

Robert Mugabe, 61, also only "dishonorably mentioned" last year, is the current No. 4. At 80, he is an aging but and similarly a durable dictator who has been in power since 1980. According to Human Rights Forum, Mugabe's regime has killed, tortured or displaced more than 70,000 Zimbabweans. He has also played the "race card," in recent years confiscating farms of white owners and giving them to his supporters.

Another 80-something, No. 2 dictator last year has become No. 5—the Crown Prince Abdullah, whose half-brother King Fahd suffered a stroke in 1995. Saudi Arabia doesn't hold any elections, but has promised municipal elections next year, but it is not known whether women will be allowed to vote. The regime forbids unrelated Saudis of the opposite sex to be seen in public together. A woman cannot testify in divorce proceedings. Only a man can testify for her. Protesters calling for freedom of expression are sentenced to be flogged in many cases.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema, 61, retains his No. 6 rating last and this year. You probably cannot even locate his country on the map where 60 percent of the people live on less than $1 a day, while Obiang funnels his oil riches directly to US banks. Last July, the state radio announced that Obiang "is in permanent contact with the Almighty" and "can decide to kill anyone without calling him to account and without going to Hell." Only one percent of the country's "riches" is spent on health care and there is no public transportation or newspaper.

Also a "dishonorable mention" last year, Omar Al-Bashir, 59, is this year's No. 7. Sudan, the largest African country, has a 20-year civil war still going on in which about two million people have been killed and four million uprooted. Al-Bashir came to power through a military coup and his regime has routinely bombed or tortured non-Muslims. He has a history of providing sanctuary for such terrorists like Carlos the Jackal and Osama bin Laden in more recent times.

Last year's No. 7 is now No. 8, and the "dishonor" belongs to Turkmenistan's Niyazob, 64, in power since 1990. He is obsessed with a personality cult, with his picture appearing everywhere, from all Turkmen money to statues of his likeness. His book ("Book of the Soul") is required reading in all schools, and, "all government employees must memorize passages to keep their jobs." He created a 2,500-member People's Council that has elected him "Lifetime Chairman," unanimously, of course.

Cuba's Fidel Castro, 77, remains at No. 9, and is the world's longest-reigning dictator in a one-party state since he seized power in 1959. Taking advantage of last year's spotlight on Iraq, Castro rounded up about 75 human rights activists, journalists and academics, sending them to prison for an average of 19 years. Castro has consistently blamed the United States for his country's economic and social problems.

The newest political rogue on the world scene, who was not ranked last year, is Swaziland's King Mswati III, only 35. His country is the last remaining absolute monarchy in the world. He became king when he was 18, after his father, who had 100 wives, died. He was educated in England. In Sept., 2002, he watched "thousands of girls and young women dance bare-breasted in the annual Reed Dance, and chose one to be his 10th wife." Amazingly, the girl's mother filed a lawsuit charging the king with abducting his daughter. The new constitution bans political parties and allows the death penalty for any criminal offense.

For the younger generations in the Philippines who are not familiar with the only martial law regime the country had, or for those whose memories are short, Ferdinand Marcos also made the notorious list at the height of his dictatorship.

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*Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.*

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# Coming home after a long journey

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

*(Excerpts from the commencement address I delivered before the graduates of Miriam College yesterday, March 20 at the High School Gym)*

THANK YOU very much for giving me the chance to walk through these halls again, and to visit a place that nurtured me and made me, for better or worse, the woman, the person that I am today.

Many years ago, I was having recurrent dreams about this campus. Somehow, I was back to being in high school again and planning to cut classes—something I must confess I did once or twice, mainly to attend rallies and protests soon after the First Quarter Storm... In this dream, I was trying to leave the high school building without getting noticed, but try as I might, I could never seem to find the exit! I walked and then ran down one corridor after another, the louvered wooden windows of the classrooms rushing past me. I would sprint down one flight of stairs only to find myself back in another long corridor, still lost and growing desperate. I would snap awake from that dream filled with dread and frustration, wondering what it meant.

Just recently, I talked with a good friend, another Maryknoller, about this dream and she confessed that she, too, had that same dream, or a variation of it. Tracing our life histories, we noted that the dreams occurred at a time of heavy political involvement for us, around the time of the post-Aquino assassination protests against the Marcos regime when the previously quiet, uninvolved middle class became enraged enough to take to the streets and resolve to dismantle the dictatorship. We concluded that our dreams of the old campus reflected back to us our deepest anxieties and insecurities about our class origins and our "right" to take part in protest actions, something that our so-called friends in leftist organizations never failed to throw at our faces, by the way. I would later joke that the real meaning of the dream was: "You can take the girl out of Maryknoll, but you can never take Maryknoll out of the girl."

* * *

**I'M not blaming Maryknoll—which is today Miriam College—for my *burgis* tendencies or lifestyle, mind. And I have long since stopped apologizing for the life I lead. I finally resolved the tension by realizing that my dream for this country—the creation of a society in which everyone, regardless of economic or social status, gender, faith or political belief, has the same opportunities to become a better person—could best be fulfilled if I and others like me used the advantages granted us by our education and access to opportunities to help transform our society and bring renewal to the country we all love.**

**I could no more deny my origins nor pretend to be someone I am not than I could root out my Maryknoll upbringing. And it was soon after I came to that realization and embraced it, that the troubling dreams stopped coming.**

**Today, I not only have stopped apologizing for being a Maryknoller, I am actually proud of being one. Looking back, I realize that it was the lessons I learned in this campus—and the lessons my mother taught me—that served as the basic text of my lifelong education in feminist activism.**

* * *

I COME from a big family, a family of five girls and four boys, and I am stuck somewhere in the middle, being the sixth child. My mother, Narni Braganza-Jimenez, had trained as a teacher and taught briefly in her hometown of Alaminos, Pangasinan before my father's roving career in the military required her to give up her work and become a full-time homemaker. But even if she had spent much of her life raising nine children, or perhaps because of it, she never forgot the value of independence and self-sufficiency, especially for her daughters. Growing up, I was acutely aware of my parents' high expectations, but especially my mother's dream that all of us girls would have fulfilling careers that would allow us to earn an independent income. "Never depend on your husband," was her constant refrain in my adolescent years, when I began developing an interest in the opposite sex. "Even if he turns out to be rich, always make sure that you earn your own money."

She backed up her words with example. Coming from a landed family in Pangasinan, she used her inheritance not just to fall back on in hard times, but also to lend substance to her husband's dreams. My father, Ernesto Tabuena Jimenez, was a writer at heart who turned to the law because his father deemed it a more "respectable" profession. But he was a dreamer and idealist throughout his life. He would brave the frontiers of Mindanao before World War II, embarking on a new life with his bride in the Koronadal Valley. After fleeing the Japanese forces on foot at the onset of Liberation, with my mother and my two oldest siblings, he went on to found a college, served in the Korean War, wrote speeches for President Magsaysay, headed an agricultural credit agency and even set up an experimental farm for hybrid rice. Not all these ventures ended in success, and some even entailed financial losses. My mother ended up bartering her inheritance in pursuit of my father's dreams. I cannot think of any stronger proof of marital devotion than that.

And yet, looking back, I think the happiest time in my mother's life was in the years when she decided to look for work outside the home. She finally found employment as an insurance agent, and would often regale me with stories of her training sessions and visits to clients during our get-togethers, for I was by then married and pregnant with my first child. She was on her way to tapping a larger circle of clients beyond her working children and the large, sprawling Braganza and Jimenez clans when she suffered her first but fatal heart attack. *(More on Tuesday)*

# Nurses for a global market

## PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

THERE was a time in the late '70s when enrolments for a nursing degree declined like those for teaching. At the University of the Philippines, the faculties that trained nurses and teachers shrank in size, mirroring the dearth of students in these traditional academic units. The perception is that if you were good enough to enter UP, you would probably not study to be a teacher or a nurse.

Things have changed. UP applications for nursing, and to a limited extent education, have picked up in a phenomenal way. The demand is market-driven, and the labor market that is sending students to nursing and teacher schools is global, not local.

The numbers for nursing are particularly astounding. In academic year (AY) 2001, 721 high school graduates applied for admission to the UP School of Nursing. The following year, AY 2002, that figure rose to 2,282. In AY 2003, the number tripled to 6,065. This year, the applicants for admission into the UP System who put nursing as their course of first choice swelled to 11,260! Almost 3,000 of these, by the way, are male. This makes the UP School of Nursing the most sought after school in the entire university system, attracting 18 percent of the total number of applicants for admission into UP. The nursing faculty can hardly meet the demand. It is constrained by limited resources and personnel to accept only 70 students every year.

Given the very stiff competition for its limited slots, one would have to be at least of cum laude caliber to get into the UP nursing school. It is intriguing to note from the data compiled by Dr. Ly Sycip at the UP Admissions Office that graduates from the country's top high schools are among the hopeful applicants. This year, for instance, 473 are graduates of the science high schools of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Visayas and Bicol. So far, there's no one yet from the premier Philippine Science High School, where students are required by their contract to go into science and technology courses. But we have 50 applicants from the UP-administered high schools. The UP nursing course has attracted 7,010 applicants from the private schools, including the elite ones like Ateneo de Manila, Assumption, Poveda, Xavier, La Salle Greenhills, Miriam and Woodrose, indicating a general leveling of career choices among various socio-economic groups. Not surprisingly, 474 of the applicants this year reported an annual family income of more than P1 million.

It is safe to assume that these students are not necessarily thirsting to serve in the understaffed hospitals and medical facilities of the Philippines. One may even ask how many of them are committed to the ethos of selflessness and service that is the spirit of the nursing profession. The driving factor instead, as one may guess, is the desire to enhance their chances of migrating to North America.

In the past four years, American hospitals and nursing homes have been recruiting Filipino nurses by the tens of thousands. To the highly qualified and experienced ones, they offer incentives that are unheard of in the Philippines. The pay is very high. Lump-sum signing bonuses are typical. More importantly, nurses bound for the United States are allowed to bring their spouses and children with them. They are guaranteed working visas and the opportunity to become permanent residents and citizens after a few years. Not since the great exodus of Filipino professionals in the 1960s has the country seen anything like this. The demand reflects the urgent health care requirements of aging residents in the affluent world. We have responded to this demand at a heavy cost to our own hospitals.

What is interesting is that the exodus of nurses is not matched by a similar rise in the number of departing doctors. One reason for this, I am told, is the extremely tough board exams that have to be hurdled by doctors in the host countries. This explains the bizarre phenomenon of full-fledged Filipino doctors giving up medical practice to go back to nursing school, with the hope of applying abroad as nurses. So now we have a reversal of the pecking order in hospital corridors. In a globalized world, nurses have indeed become the new aristocracy of the professions.

If UP were a private school and not a state university, it would probably not hesitate to expand its nursing program to accommodate this spectacular rise in demand. Using the Philippine General Hospital as its training base, it could spin its small nursing school into a separate campus unto itself, catering not only to Filipino students but to other Asians as well, and charging the full cost of such training. To do this, it would have to reorient its curriculum to make it conform to the needs of patients in the developed countries, and to the content of the state board examinations in the countries of destination.

I do not see how UP can move in this direction without betraying its basic mandate. As a state university, UP's main function is to help craft and achieve a vision of a better Philippine society. It is not to continually adjust its curricula to accommodate the demands of a fickle world market. How long it can remain faithful to its mission as a national university in a post-national world is a big dilemma.

Globalization has made national planning superfluous. Countries like ours have lost their way in the drive to perennially adjust to the world market. In a world like this, national politics is almost senseless. For, whoever runs the nation-state under these circumstances would have little choice but to surrender it to global forces.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELECTION 2004

# Voters view presidential platforms (3)

WE continue with the critique of the platforms of the presidential candidates. This time we are focusing on unemployment, poverty, housing, the environment, insurgency, and peace talks.

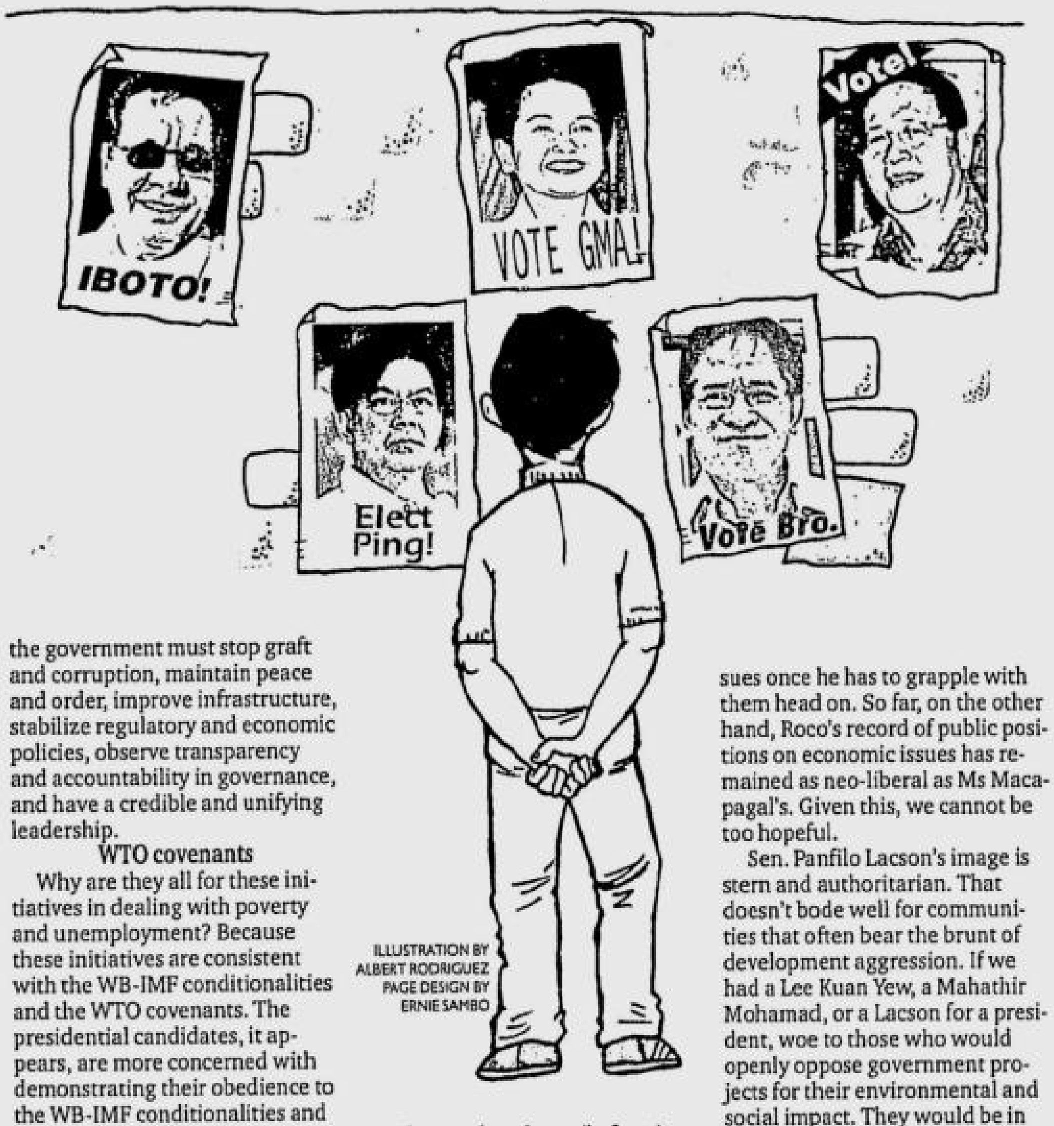
These issues are interrelated. Lack of jobs is a result of many factors, including government policies on manufacturing, agriculture and imports.

Joblessness inevitably leads to poverty, which forces people to build shacks on the banks of *esteros*, along railroad tracks, under bridges, and on unoccupied land owned either by private individuals or government agencies.

Poverty leads people to cut trees, till the side of mountains and engage in unsustainable fishing methods like blast fishing. This is not to say that corporations are not engaged in illegal logging and other environmentally destructive extraction of resources like mining.

Poverty and the injustices that the poor suffer push mostly young people, who have lost faith in the system, to join rebel groups, either the New People's Army of the Communist Party of the Philippines or the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In the next issue of Talk of the Town, voters will give their critique of the positions of the presidential candidates on corruption, pork barrel, Erap pardon, health, education and the country's debts.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## No painless successes if land is involved

**By Denis Murphy**
*Executive director*
*Urban Poor Associates*

With the exception of President Macapagal-Arroyo and perhaps Raul Roco, the presidential candidates appear to have little understanding of the housing problem, especially among the urban poor. Candidates mention housing but in a very perfunctory way, much as they talk of feeder roads as if they aren't sure what they are good for.

Ms Macapagal knows more because she inherited the discontent of Joseph Estrada's urban poor followers in 2001 and tried to bridge the gap between them and her administration through land proclamations and other programs. Roco has tried conscientiously for months to visit urban poor areas and study their problems.

Ms Macapagal has found that housing is not the main problem. Land is. Poor people, above all need land tenure security, which the United Nations has called the most essential step in alleviating poverty. They want freedom from fear of eviction. However, land is a very thorny problem. It is not possible to give land to the poor without overcoming the objections of well-off people, mayors and officials of national government agencies who have their own plans for the land. Some people believe Ms Macapagal blinked when faced with the problems of pushing her land proclamation program against such strong opposition.

### Conflict

The candidate who wants to give the poor a decent place to live must be ready for conflict. This is the basic lesson from past administrations. There are no painless successes if land is involved.

If the candidates were to speak more about housing, what would the urban poor like to hear? The following list of suggestions was put together by the April 30 Working Group, a coalition of 45 urban poor organizations. To be honest, much of the list continues what Ms Macapagal has promised to do. The words in parenthesis are the writer's explanation.

- One-year moratorium on eviction on public and private land. (This will give time for government and civil society to work out a feasible long-range plan to house the poor. The Catholic bishops in a 1997 pastoral letter urged government to set up a public-private citizen commission to work out such a plan.

We especially need a solution to the problem of eviction on private land. Now the law is not observed in 90 percent of cases. Other countries such as Brazil have worked out solutions.)

- Proclaim government land for 200,000 families a year.

(Ms Macapagal promised she would do so for 150,000 families a year and did it, at least for the first year or so. It can be done with commitment.)

- Enroll 500,000 families a year in Philhealth. (This seems the most feasible solution at present. At least 80 percent of the poor do not belong to the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System and have no health insurance.)
- No child will be forced to leave elementary or high school because of lack of money. (It costs the poor of Baseco P190 per month to send a child to public elementary schools.)
- No distant relocation. Relocation will be in-city or near-city. (It takes many poor families five years to recover economically in distant relocation sites.)
- All urban poor communities will be upgraded with light, water, sanitation, drainage and roads within six years.
- Triple the funding of the Community Mortgage Program, an urban land reform program.
- Raise the money budgeted for urban poor job creation, training and loans by 500 percent.
- Encourage maximum people's participation. (This is the basic solution to nearly all urban poor people's problems. If they have a voice in the planning of programs, the results will be better.)
- No officials will be appointed who are cruel to the poor and trees. (There's no doubt who this refers to.)

## All are for IMF-WB conditions

**By Amado Gat Inciong**
*Former undersecretary of labor*

In their so-called "platforms of government" as published by the INQUIRER, all the presidential candidates—Ms Macapagal, Poe, Roco, Lacson and Villanueva—have a common unstated position: all are for the conditions imposed by the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on loans extended to the Philippines and for the covenants adopted by the Uruguay Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Therefore, they are all, in effect, for keeping most Filipinos—the masses—unemployed and impoverished.

Let me explain.

The WB-IMF conditionalities and the WTO covenants prescribe four overarching imperatives: liberalization, deregulation, privatization and level playing field.

These imperatives are designed primarily to maximize the profits of transnational corporations, not to liberate the masses from unemployment and poverty.

In the pursuit of these imperatives, many multinational corporations among them, Colgate Palmolive, Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer, Union Carbide, and the latest addition, Caltex Philippines—shifted from manufacturing to trading, in the process laying off thousands of employees. Trade liberalization rules out manufacturing as a development path.

### Industrialization

Thus, for fear of transgressing the WB-IMF conditionalities and the WTO covenants, all the presidential candidates have avoided mention of industrialization in their platforms. Instead, all of them are for focusing developmental energies on agriculture. And yet, as self-evident in the experience of nations, only industrialization can permanently liberate a country from unemployment and poverty.

Poverty is unknown in the Group of Seven because they are the most advanced industrialized countries. Poverty is unknown in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the exclusive club of rich countries, because they are industrialized.

Unemployment in the US is due to the shipment of jobs—blue collar to China and white collar to India—as companies search for cheap, docile and more profitable workers.

All the presidential candidates are for maximizing investments which, as they correctly observe, are the generator of jobs. They all agree that to enhance investments the government must stop graft and corruption, maintain peace and order, improve infrastructure, stabilize regulatory and economic policies, observe transparency and accountability in governance, and have a credible and unifying leadership.

### WTO covenants

Why are they all for these initiatives in dealing with poverty and unemployment? Because these initiatives are consistent with the WB-IMF conditionalities and the WTO covenants. The presidential candidates, it appears, are more concerned with demonstrating their obedience to the WB-IMF conditionalities and the WTO covenants than in dealing with unemployment and poverty, as if it were the WB, the IMF and the WTO which would vote on May 10 and not the Filipino masses.

In a country of 84 million people and still growing, only manufacturing can create as many jobs as there are workers. Neither agriculture nor trading can do so. Hence, the presidential candidates' common formula (the candidates can differ only in wording or in details) for combating unemployment and poverty simply will not work. (*Inciong was the chair of the committee which drafted the Labor Code of the Philippines and its implementing rules. He is a student of globalization.*)

## Deal with three major issues in environment

**By Roberto Verzola**
*Sustainable agriculture campaigner*
*Philippine Greens*

In so far as environmental issues are concerned, the election winners must grapple with three major sources of environmental problems:

- The age-old problems associated with natural resource extraction, as typified by logging, mining and big dams.
- The entry of new technologies that poison our land, air, water, and food supply, as typified by plantation agriculture, coal plants, and genetically-modified organisms (GMOs).
- New global threats over which we have very little control, like climate change and global warming.

So far, the candidates have released no earth-shaking statement on these issues that would dramatize an intention to truly tackle them at their roots.

In fact, it would be misleading to evaluate election candidates based on their programs of action and campaign statements, because winners seldom keep their promises. The only way to truly judge candidates is through their track records—the trail of positions and moves they took while they went about the business of politics, economics and governance.

### Track record

Since Poe has little track record to speak of, he will have to be evaluated based on the people in his inner circle who are perceived to wield the greatest influence on his thinking, particularly deposed President Joseph Estrada, Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto III and officials of the Marcos and Estrada administrations. Their environmental records have been dismal.

Sen. Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate, has been active on environmental issues, but she has at crucial times disappointed environmental groups who expected more from her. Her vote in favor of the appointment of Antonio Cerilles as environment secretary of the Estrada adminstration is an example.

As the incumbent, Ms Macapagal's record is still fresh in our minds. It is basically an extension of the Ramos administration's program with its push for mining, coal plants, big dams, plantation agriculture, and the opening of local markets to more foreign goods and investments, which bring in a new round of environmental problems. She will, for instance, be remembered for opening the door to the commercialization of Bt corn in the Philippines, and the inevitable contamination by the Bt-toxin gene of our local corn varieties.

This crime should be remembered not only by this generation but also by subsequent generations of Filipinos.

Noli de Castro, whose Senate term has been lackluster, has as thin a record as Poe's to base an evaluation on.

### Neo-liberal

Raul Roco has not taken strong positions on environmental issues in the past beyond the typical motherhood statements a la Agenda 21 we hear from politicians. Based on the more enlightened positions he has taken on some social issues, however, we are somewhat hopeful this will carry over to environmental issues once he has to grapple with them head on. So far, on the other hand, Roco's record of public positions on economic issues has remained as neo-liberal as Ms Macapagal's. Given this, we cannot be too hopeful.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson's image is stern and authoritarian. That doesn't bode well for communities that often bear the brunt of development aggression. If we had a Lee Kuan Yew, a Mahathir Mohamad, or a Lacson for a president, woe to those who would openly oppose government projects for their environmental and social impact. They would be in jail or worse.

Eddie Villanueva would presumably try to run a righteous government on strong ethical foundations. The possibilities might be tantalizing, but the track record is as much a blank as Poe's and De Castro's.

The current crop of presidential and vice-presidential candidates, I'm afraid, does not inspire confidence among us who have been pushing for a strong ecological perspective for government. For the sake of the environment and of future generations, I wish I were wrong.

## Guard against warmongers

**By Robinson Montalba, S.Th.D.**
*Convenor*
*Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao*

We see the peace question taking distinct prominence in the presidential platforms.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had wanted a peace accord before the elections. Fernando Poe, Jr. portrays himself as the "defender" of the Moro people, in the same way that he fights for the oppressed in his movies. Sen. Panfilo Lacson packages himself in the mold of strong leaders Lee Kuan Yew and Mahathir Mohamad. Eddie Villanueva believes that a moral leadership would diminish the insurgency. And Raul Roco props up some sort of Mindanao-for-Mindanaoans line in relation to the Mindanao conflict.

However, peace rhetoric and tough talk against terror are almost always the formulation in any presidential platform. How government can sustain the peace talks and deal with the social and political complexities of the peace question, particularly the Mindanao conflict, however, will be the test of its sincerity and political will.

While candidates agree that war and peace are rooted in poverty, the bottom line is how the government implements reforms to reduce poverty, which breeds insurgency. For example, no agrarian reform program has resolved the land-to-the-tiller problem. For centuries, the peasantry has been the moving force of revolutionary movements.

It takes a president's political will to go against the interests of his or her patrons who are the business monopolists and landholders. In Mindanao, landowners own vast tracts of plantation and mining lands, cattle ranches, and resorts that have often marginalized thousands of poor peasant and urban poor families.

Injustices such as demolition of squatter colonies, dislocation of peasant communities due to land grabbing and conversions, displacement of *lumads* from ancestral domains, and a slow-grinding, pro-rich justice system also continue to drive people to rebel. The issue of self-governance for the Bangsamoro has also been simplistically addressed by government through all-out military offensive.

### Commitment

Presidential candidates must possess historical knowledge of the peace process. Peace talks do not commence and end during their term of office. Peace agreements have been delicately set up like building blocks throughout various administrations. For instance, the government-National Democratic Front Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws and the establishment of a joint monitoring committee to oversee its implementation are major breakthroughs in the talks.

Presidential candidates must be asked about their commitment to carry out the peace agreements.

The government, the NDF and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front should be made to abide by the agreements that they had signed. Imposition of deadlines and unrealistic timetables for "comprehensive" peace accords waste valuable time for short-term, doable bilateral and unilateral measures from the main players in the armed conflict.

### State credibility

State credibility is also a matter of utmost concern. Allegations of state terrorism have hounded the Macapagal administration and will continue to be a nagging issue for anyone assuming the presidency after the May 2004 elections.

Like Ms Macapagal, no government will have the moral ascendancy in pursuing any platform on the so-called "war on terror" since state law enforcement agencies, especially the Armed Forces, are mired in corruption and arms-selling, protection of drug and gambling syndicates, human rights atrocities, and connivance with the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

From our experience in the Mindanao Truth Commission, a citizen-led independent probe of the bombings in Mindanao, we have found substantial evidence linking state involvement in various irregularities and terrorism.

In the people's minds, the question begs asking: Who's sowing terror then? We need to hear the presidential candidates talk on state-sponsored terrorism.

The role of international bodies and a third country as facilitator in the peace negotiations should also be enhanced. At the same time, people's initiatives such as peace education should be pursued. The ballot should be one expression of the people's yearning for peace. We should guard against warmongers.

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## Solon asks Comelec to designate more common poster areas

BACOLOD CITY—Reelectionist Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (Negros Occidental, 4th District) appealed to the Commission on Elections to add more poster areas to accommodate the campaign materials of all candidates as the campaign for local elections nears.

Cojuangco made the appeal after four of his campaign workers were booked by Bago elections registrar Luz Hilario for allegedly pasting posters of President Macapagal-Arroyo and K-4 candidates along the national highway on Thursday.

Booked at the Bago police station were Edward Amilanea, Willy Bodoso, Ernesto Pelasol and Virgilio Motin, who were caught along Araneta Street in front of the Sampinit Elementary School, Hilario reported.

Bodoso said they were pasting the campaign posters of the President and the K-4 in all the places where there were already posters of other candidates because they thought it was all right to do so.

"We apologize for this incident," Cojuangco said. "We in the administration should lead by example, even in the conduct of this campaign."

However, Cojuangco said the incident pointed out the need for more areas where they can legally post the campaign materials of candidates especially now that the local campaign nears. The local campaign begins on March 25. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## Angeles group cites dean

THE BANTAY Anak group of Angeles City, which caters to the needs of out of school youth in the city, yesterday cited the role of college dean Dr. Dante Silva of the AMA Computer School in opening the doors to education for the city's poor youth.

SILVA

# 1,000 village chairs armed

**ILAGAN, Isabela—Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. has approved the issuance of shotguns to 1,055 village captains in the province.**

But Dy allayed fears that the firearms given to the village officials would be used to harass candidates of the opposition during the campaign period. He said the firearms, which cost at least P20,000 each, were distributed to the village chairs to help in maintaining peace and order and stopping crime in the villages.

"These are only shotguns, why would you be afraid of these? Let us fear instead the (New People's Army rebels) who brandish Armalite rifles," he said.

The village officials and chairs signed a memorandum of agreement with the Isabela provincial government that the guns will not be used for "unlawful acts."

The agreement said officials are unauthorized to carry the guns outside of their villages and they should not allow other people to use these.

"The barangay captains are persons in authority and they are allowed by law (to have guns) to maintain peace and order and to have (the capacity for) self-defense during the course of their (official work)," Dy said.

Arming village officials, he said, would discourage crimes like cattle rustling, theft and robbery in the villages.

But one of Dy's critics questioned the timing of the distribution of firearms.

"Why would he give the firearms only now, during the election period? It is lamentable that some officials invest on guns that sow fear among the people," said Ma, Gracia Cielo Padaca, who is challenging Dy's reelection bid. "People need food and shelter, not guns," she said.

The Commission on Elections has put in its list of potential trouble spots several areas in the country that had a history of political violence.

One of the criteria for an area to be classified as an election hot spot was the presence of guerrillas and the intense rivalry between and among candidates for various positions.

The country has had a long history of political violence and killings. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Brit, American owner of security firm nabbed

DAVAO CITY—A retired member of the US Army and a British national were charged with illegal operation of a security consultancy and training service here.

Michael Timothy Murell, 39, and Colin Paul Smith, also a retired soldier of the British Army were arrested by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Thursday while receiving money from an undercover agent posing as a client.

Supt. Jose Pante, CIDG chief, said Murell owns Self-Protect Inc. (SPI) here, a company listed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, while Smith works in the firm as a consultant.

However, Pante said SPI has no license to operate from the police's Security Agency and Guard Supervision Division-Civil Security Group (SAGSD-CSG).

Pante said one of CIDG agents acted as a company representative who would enter into a contract agreement with Murell. Murell and Smith agreed to meet the undercover agent.

Murell and Smith did not resist arrest.

Pante said Murell's company was conducting specialized security training programs.

The trainings include VIP protection and on the use of handguns and close quarter battle, hostage rescue and others. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Abducted activist surfaces dazed, nervous

LUCENA CITY—A member of the Anakpawis party-list group who was earlier reported abducted surfaced Thursday but appeared dazed and nervous, the group said yesterday.

Pedro Bueta, 54, was quoted as saying he was abducted by the military and taken to a camp in Talaungan Village in Cavinti, Laguna.

"He was questioned about his knowledge about the New People's Army, the NPA's relations with Anakpawis, and why he was supporting both groups," the group's report said.

But Bueta denied that he was a communist rebel and that he didn't know that Anakpawis was allied with the insurgents.

However, the report also disclosed that according to Bueta, he was "treated kindly and humanely" by the military.

Bueta was abducted in his house on March 13 by a group of at least 15 armed men in fatigues believed to be members of the military on suspicion that he is connected to the rebel movement. The military denied being behind the abduction.

Crispin Beltran, Anakpawis national chair, said their group is preparing charges against the military in Laguna for the abduction. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## SC affirms life sentence for cop who killed inmate

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court last week affirmed the life sentence that was handed down to a policeman who killed a prisoner inside the municipal jail in Pagsanjan, Laguna in 1996.

The high court also affirmed the life sentence of a murder convict in another case.

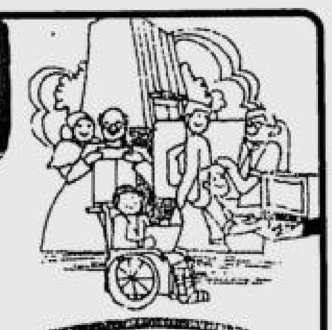
The SC's third division found SPO1 Virgilio Brecinio, formerly assigned to the Pagsanjan police office, "guilty beyond reasonable doubt," for shooting and killing Alberto Pagtananan, who was detained in the town's jail.

The court was convinced by forensic reports and witnesses' testimony, which illustrate how the drunken Brecinio had barged into the Pagsanjan jail on June 30, 1996, to intimidate prisoners.

Records said Brecinio entered the prisoners' cell and asked for their names and the reason for their detention. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers
on Social Security



Updating SSS Employer's Data

**What must an employer do if there are changes in the company's data?**

The employer should immediately inform the SSS of any change in company address, business name or temporary/permanent cessation of business operations through the submission of a duly notarized **SSS Form R-8 (Employer Data Change Request).** This form is available at all SSS offices. It must be submitted duly notarized, properly filled up and signed by the owner, for single proprietorships; any of the partners, for partnerships; or the President or any of the incorporators, for corporations.

**What are the required documents in case of termination/dissolution of business operations?**

For a single proprietorship business, the employer must present an application for business retirement approved by the Municipal Treasurer's Office or death certificate, in case of death of the owner together with the duly notarized SSS Form R-8.

For partnership and corporation, Deed of Dissolution approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), or Minutes of the Meeting or Board Resolution certified by the Corporate Secretary.

**In case of temporary suspension of operation due to bankruptcy, retrenchment, fire or place demolition, strike or merger, what are the documents that must be submitted?**

The following documents must be submitted based on the reason for closure:

- Bankruptcy - Financial statement, or income tax returns or Board Resolution certified by the Corporate Secretary
- Retrenchment – Latest submitted Collection Lists (SSS Forms R-3s)
- Fire or Place Demolition – Certification from the Fire Department of the municipality or certification from City Hall
- Strike – Notice of strike from the Department of Labor and Employment
- Merger – Deed of Merger or Merger Agreement certified by the SEC, or Memorandum of Agreement filed with the SEC

**What if there is a change of ownership, legal personality or change of business name, or resumption of operation?**

- Change of Ownership – Deed of Sale/Transfer/Agreement
- Change of Legal Personality
- or Business Name – Certificate of Business Name with the Bureau of Domestic Trade, or Articles of Partnership/Corporation, or Amended Articles of Partnership/Corporation
- Resumption of Operation – SSS Form R-1A reporting newly-hired or re-hired employees

The SSS may also request other document that it may deem appropriate.

**Why is it important to inform the SSS of any change in your company's data/status?**

When the company's data is updated, this enables the SSS to deliver prompt and efficient service to its members. Otherwise, if the employer fails to inform the SSS and submit the required documents, the SSS will assume that the business is still in operation. This will eventually lead to penalty charges, field investigation and court cases.

**What are the other effects to the company?**

There are cases when the employer's static file is tagged "Temporary Suspension" based on the findings of our accounts officer that the employer is no longer existing in given address of which some employers are unaware of. This results to the rejection of their claims for reimbursements with the SSS.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# Finding Longman's Beaked Whale

By Raphael Antonio F. Punzalan
and Shaira I. Rosido
*Contributors*

ON THE night of Jan. 13, fisherman Rolando Ancajas was pushing his *bangka* to sail off to sea when he noticed a creature floating near the shoreline of the Matina Aplaya in Davao City. Then the unexpected happened.

Ancajas heard the creature moaning and screeching softly. *"Naa'y dakong lumod* (There's a big dolphin)!" he shouted nervously.

His repeated frantic cries caught the attention of residents of the Del Carmen Village, a seaside community, who then rushed to the shore. Out of curiosity, some of them immediately approached the creature and was surprised to find out that it looked like a dolphin.

*"Pero murag nagaluya ang lumod* (But the dolphin seemed weak)," recalled Ancajas who, along with other residents, called up authorities to help rescue the creature.

While waiting for help, some men tried to push the creature back to deeper waters, but the animal refused to budge and even wiggled back. The more they pushed, the more the creature resisted; it seemed to be dying.

At about 2 a.m., the creature was dead.

Unknown to Ancajas and the other residents, the creature was actually a whale belonging to a rare species known as the Longman's Beaked Whale.

## Exposed teeth

Experts from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), who flew in days after the discovery, were able to identify it as a beaked whale after analyzing the skull structure. A beaked whale has front teeth that are exposed even when the mouth is closed, making it look like a bird's beak.

Japanese scientists and veterinarians verified that the specimen was indeed a Longman's Beaked Whale (*Indopacetus pacificus*) based on a similar find in Kagoshima, Japan.

Dr. Jo Marie Acebes, director of the WWF's Humpback Whale Research and Conservation Project, said the whale discovery was the first documented live rare species that had been stranded not only in the Philippines but also in the whole world. It puts Davao City on the map of whale discovery finds.

Acebes and other experts theorized that the male whale could have been stranded because of weather disturbance or had beached itself because it was sick and dying.

Food samples taken from the intestine during the post-mortem examination contained plastic with Indonesian and Malaysian markings, indicating that the mammal swallowed pieces of garbage on its course.

## Suicidal

Dr. My Lady Rose Domingo, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources consultant and veterinarian-aquaculturist, also said the whale could have also been committing suicide, noting that whales instinctively do so when they are sick or dying.

Residents sighted a pod of whales cavorting in the Davao Gulf area which, Domingo believed, were the ones that brought their dying relative to shore. Usually, beaked whales carry their dead or dying relatives to shore. But the whale experts were already too late in locating them.

George Campeon, BFAR regional director, said the whale had no chance to survive when it was found. So the bureau decided to preserve and study its biology together with the WWF.

Domingo also speculated that the coastal features of the Matina Aplaya and Bucana areas could have attracted pelagic animals that include beaked whales, dolphins, sea turtles and whales to beach in the area because the Davao Gulf current ends along their shoreline.

## Rare finds

Beaked whales are rare, but there are reports of sightings from different parts of the world. In 1980, experienced observers near the Seychelles saw two light gray whales in the Indian Ocean. One was estimated at 7.5 m and the other at 4.6 m. Both had elongated beaks and broad flukes.

In 2002, another was found near Kagoshima. The latest was that found in Matina Aplaya.

The sightings suggest that the species' habitat is located between the extensive range of the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

*"Dako man diay ang lumod pag-alsa sa iya* (The dolphin was big when it was carried)," recalled Ancajas, who was looking at the whale experts measuring the animal.

At first, the animal was measured at 19.08 feet while still in the water. But when it was carried out of the water by a huge crane, it was 20.88 ft. Its circumference at its widest was 9 ft, while its hindmost fin was 4.5 ft. Its snout was one foot.

It was a young male whale, about three to four years old.

Before opening its body, the experts took tissue samples for further experiments. The BFAR plans to preserve the tissues and the skeletal remains for educational purposes.

## Rescue training

Campeon said the bureau has two plans of action following the rare whale find.

Fishers along the Matina Aplaya shoreline will be trained on how to respond to beached marine mammals and pelagic animals. The remains of the beaked whale will also be displayed.

"We will assemble the specimen for the benefit of the students, so as to teach them about some features of the beaked whales," he added.

Domingo said trainor's trainings were being conducted in the Island Garden City of Samal on the proper handling of rescue operations.

Possible stranding areas will also be provided with stretchers and boats with ropes that can tow the whale to deeper waters. "That's the cheapest way to rescue," Domingo said.

"From this mistake, we have learned to be more prepared," she said. "Next time when something like this happens, we will be prepared."

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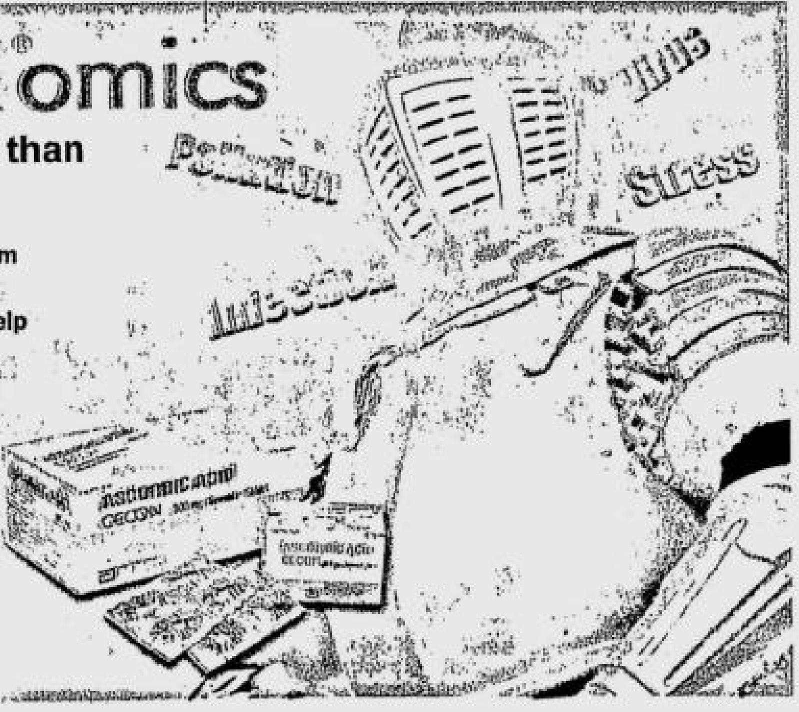
*The authors are Mass Communication students of the Ateneo de Davao University in Davao City.*



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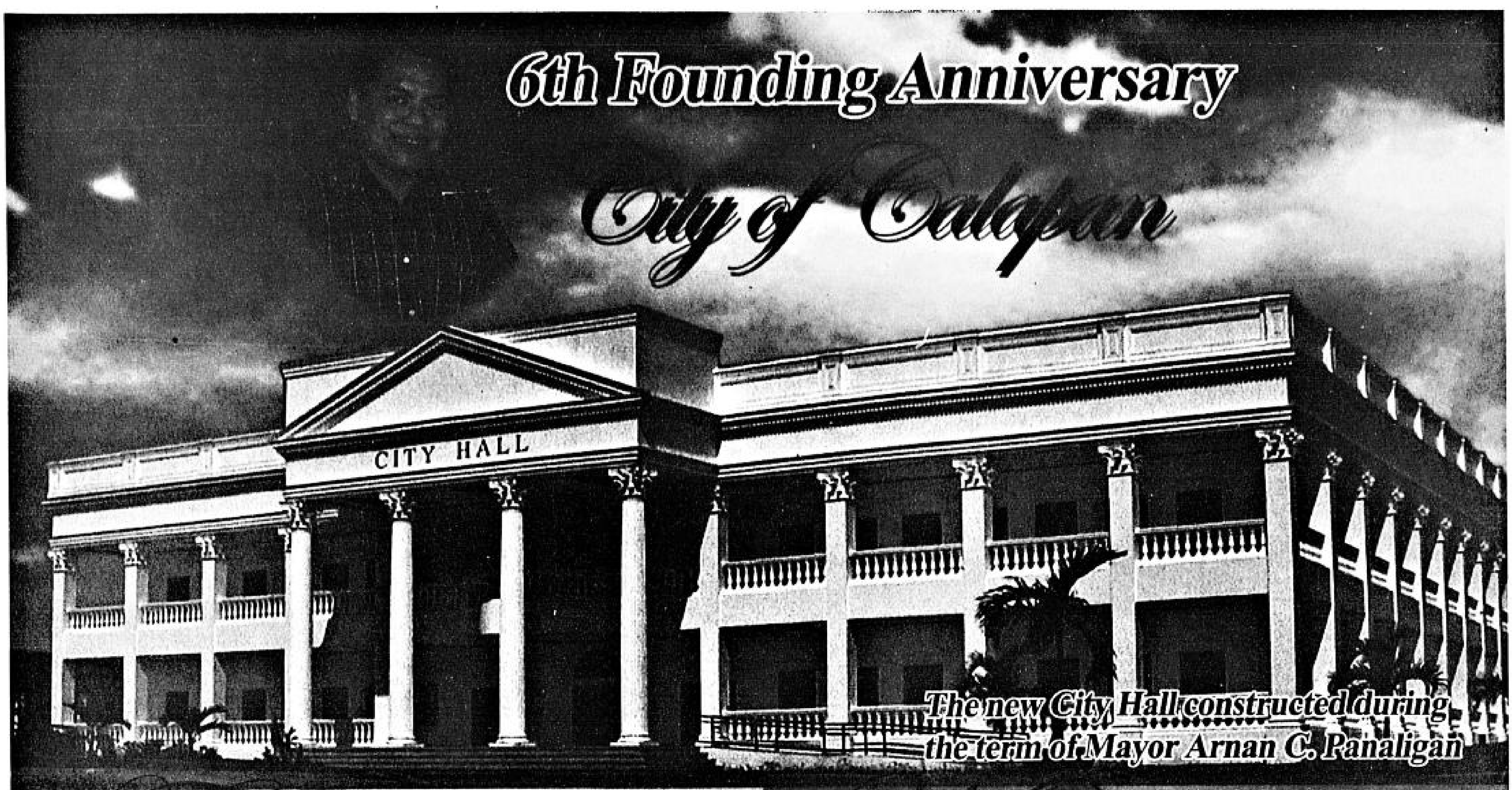
# 6th Founding Anniversary
# City of Calapan



The new City Hall constructed during the term of Mayor Arnan C. Panaligan

The City of Calapan celebrates today its 6th Foundation Day. It was on March 21, 1998 when the people of the then Municipality of Calapan ratified the creation of the City of Calapan in a plebiscite held on that day. Today, six years after, Calapan had been transformed into a vibrant and progressive city. Dramatic changes have occurred in Calapan City under the leadership of its first City Mayor, Hon. Arnan C. Panaligan, who is now completing his three consecutive terms in office.

This year's anniversary celebration is doubly significant as the people of the city are marking the event for the first time in the newly constructed City Hall. The new City Hall, located in a five hectare area designated as the City Government Center, is a beautiful neoclassic designed structure that is an architectural gem. The new City Hall will give character and identity to the City of Calapan as a civic symbol. It will be a source of pride and prestige for the city. Construction of the building commenced in 2000 and was completed last year. Mayor Panaligan describes the new City Hall as the crowning jewel of the city.

The past six years of cityhood have seen the growth and development of Calapan. Investments have poured in the city as shown by the opening of more business establishments such as malls, restaurants, fast food chains, hotels and resorts that generated employment and income for the residents. Major infrastructure projects such as the cementing of road networks and construction/upgrading of drainage systems have been undertaken. The central business district has been revitalized. More school buildings have been constructed. The city's water supply system has been rehabilitated.

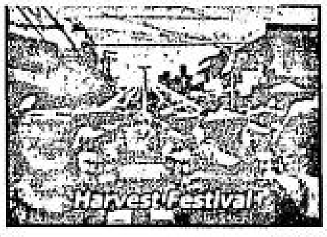
The administration of Mayor Arnan C. Panaligan has also given priority to social development concerns. Philhealth Medicare Insurance was provided to 13,000 poor families. A medical assistance program for the poor was undertaken. The City Government has initiated housing and land tenure security program for the homeless. A relocation site was developed wherein informal settlers were awarded lots. The city has also supported Community Mortgage Programs to provide land for the homeless.

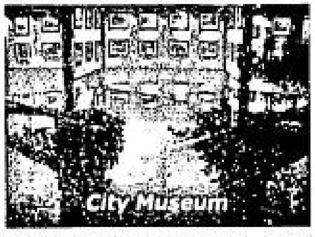
Education has been one of the priorities of the City Government of Calapan. A city scholarship program was initiated to send young men and women to college. More public high schools were opened especially in the rural areas. A City Library stocked with the latest reference books was opened. It is also an e-library as students can access the internet to obtain knowledge and information. An anti-illiteracy program was also launched by the city.

The City Government of Calapan has also placed emphasis on environmental protection. Cleanliness is maintained in the city. A new controlled dumpsite that will be upgraded into a landfill was opened last year.

Indeed, the signs of a booming city cannot be denied. After six years of cityhood, Calapan is now on the road to progress. As Mayor Arnan C. Panaligan, the First City Mayor of Calapan, leaves office on June 30, 2004, after nine successful years at the helm of leadership, Calapan is now on the verge of fulfilling its dreams.

Agricultural Production

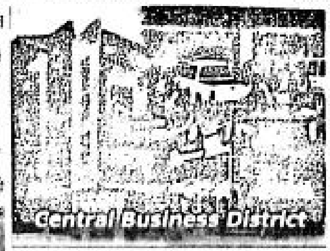

Harvest Festival


City Museum

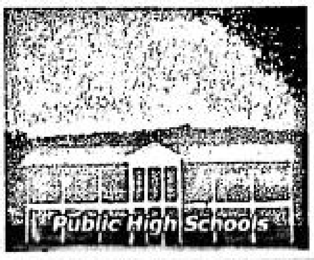
Emergency Response Team

Livelihood Promotion

Concrete Roads


Central Business District

Post-Harvest Facilities


Public High Schools

## Anniversary Executive Committee

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| Vice-Chairman | Dr. Liza M. Llanto | | [illegible] |
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| Asst. Secretary | Mr. Jerry delos Reyes | | [illegible] |
| | | Auditor | Mr. [illegible] Chavez |

www.cityofcalapan.gov.ph

## Messages

*Isang mainit na pagbati ang aking ipinaabot sa aking mga kababayan sa **Lungsod ng Calapan** sa inyong pagdiriwang ng inyong **ika-6 Taong Anibersaryo**.*

*Ako ay lubos na nagagalak na maging bahagi ng inyong natatanging pagdiriwang. Tunay na marami tayong dapat ipagpasalamat sa okasyong ito, una rito ang pagsulong ng ating bayan sa kabila ng mga suliranin at pagsubok na kinakaharap natin.*

*Ngayon higit kailanman, kinakailangan nating magkaisa at magtulungan tungo sa katuparan ng ating adhikaing maiahon mula sa kahirapan ang sambayanang Pilipino. Bilang isang komunidad, ang mga mamamayan ng Calapan, kasama ang mga pinuno nito, ay may magkatuwang na tungkuling dapat gampanan. Gaya nang pagpapatunay ng mga makabuluhang proyektong magbabago sa inyong pamayanan at maghahatid ng kaginhawahan para sa lahat.*

*Binabati ko ang inyong Punong Lungsod, sampu ng mga bumubuo ng inyong Pamahalaang Panglungsod, sa kanilang pagsisikap at suporta sa ating mga programa tulad ng Strong Republic Nautical Highway. Ito ay magandang halimbawa kung paano ang pagtutulungan ng pambansa at lokal na pamahalaan ay magdadala ng kaunlaran sa nakararami. Nawa'y ipagpatuloy natin ang ganitong simulain tungo sa isang matatag na Republika.*

*[illegible] pagbati at patnubayan nawa tayong lahat ng Poong Maykapal.*

***H. E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO***
*President, Republic of the Philippines*

*With great pride and joy, I join my fellow Calapeños in celebrating the 6th Founding Anniversary of the City of Calapan.*

*Amidst the ever-changing socioeconomic and political landscape, let us continue to promote solidarity among the different sectors of society, and strengthen our fundamental institutions for further progress.*

***MABUHAY ANG MGA CALAPEÑOS!***

***HON. CHARITY R. LEVISTE***
*[illegible]*
*[illegible] Oriental Mindoro*

*As we mark the 6th Foundation Day of our beloved city [illegible] since March 21, 1998. [illegible] Calapan [illegible]*

*We have [illegible]*

***Mabuhay ang Lungsod ng Calapan!***

***HON. ARNAN C. PANALIGAN***
*First City Mayor of Calapan*

***Greeting on the 6th Founding Anniversary of Calapan City!***

*I take pride in the concrete achievements of Calapan City as it celebrates its founding anniversary while it continues to grow into a booming Metropolis. I am one with the people of Calapan City in sharing the joy of its successful transformation.*

*No doubt, Calapan City has been moving up for progress since 1998, in terms of business generation, and growth of infrastructures. Tourism has improved as well contributing to the overall progress of Oriental Mindoro. Notwithstanding, we are tasked to continue with our efforts toward development.*

*I see this founding anniversary as a more opportune time to reaffirm our commitment to the realization of the development thrusts of the city anchored on the National Development Goals.*

*I therefore enjoin my fellow Calapeños in continuing their support and wishing for more productive endeavors for Calapan City in the years to come.*

***HON. ROBERT J. PARAS***
*City Vice Mayor*

## City Officials

***Hon Arnan C. Panaligan***
*City Mayor*

***Hon. Robert J. Paras***
*City Vice-Mayor*

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**Juvy L. Bahia**
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**Atty. Loryvelle M. Tanyag**
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**Dr. Faby Dar C. Manglicmot**
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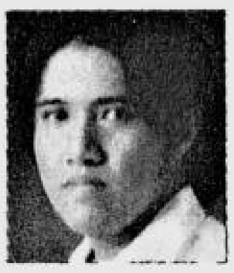
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# Pro-FPJ Dolphy to be homeless soon

From page A1

Salterio, ABS-CBN public relations officer, told the INQUIRER on Saturday. "You can even ask Dolphy if you want."

But Dolphy did not make himself available to the INQUIRER for comment.

An industry source said ABS-CBN's denial was mere damage control. "Canceling Dolphy's show now is really bad timing," the source close to Dolphy's family added.

## Evasive

Poe was in General Santos City yesterday with other candidates of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino when rumors reached him that Dolphy's show had been axed due to partisan politics.

Asked if the rumors were true, Poe said: "*Hindi naman siguro. Malalaman natin puno't dulo niyan.*.(I hope it's not true. We will soon know the whole truth). I don't want to comment."

FPJ told reporters he would call Dolphy later in the day.

In fact, a close friend had called Poe on Thursday night to inform him of Dolphy's axing. The following day, Poe called Dolphy to verify the report but Dolphy was "evasive," according to Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Poe's campaign manager.

## Poor ratings?

A source close to the Quizon (Dolphy's surname) family said Dolphy recently met with Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president for entertainment, to discuss the comedian's talent contract.

The network reportedly claimed that his sitcom, "Home Along Da Airport," was doing poorly in the ratings and would soon be axed after being on the air under another title for more than a decade.

According to the source, Dolphy was "very disappointed" with ABS-CBN's decision but promised Santos-Concio that he would not make comments in public.

But "Home Along Da Airport," which also features comedian Nova Villa and Dolphy's son Vandolph, remains one of the top-rating shows on ABS-CBN, according to Dolphy's publicist Nene Riego.

In last month's survey conducted by AGB Phils., "Home Along Da Airport" was in the Top 20 Prime-time Programs (it ranked 19) during the period Jan. 18-24, 2004.

The source claimed that the move of the Lopez-owned company was prompted by pressure from President Macapagal-Arroyo and her running mate, Noli de Castro.

While ABS-CBN is reportedly partial to De Castro, Dolphy is a staunch supporter of Ms Macapagal's closest rival.

## The clincher

It was Poe's father, the late actor Fernando Poe Sr., who had given Dolphy his break in show biz.

"At age 75, *nagawa pa nila sa kanya ito* (they still did this to him). Dolphy said *walang nakagawa sa kanya ng ganito* in the past, si Arroyo lang (no one did anything like this to him in the past, only Arroyo)," the source pointed out.

The source added that Poe's campaign sortie in Legazpi City two weeks ago proved to be the clincher for ABS-CBN. "They saw how people in Legazpi adored Dolphy. That pushed ABS-CBN to finally give him up," the source said.

## Renewed contract

Dolphy renewed his one-year contract with ABS-CBN only last December.

Included in Dolphy's talent contract was a clause stating that the network could buy out his contract in the event the network decided to have it scrapped.

"This usually happens when a talent's show would be cancelled and the cancellation is not the talent's fault," one source said.

Poe said the cancellation of Dophy's show would be a big loss to the industry and the entire country. He said Dolphy had made Filipinos laugh for the past 50 years and described the comedy king as "the greatest" and a "treasure."

## First time

Dolphy has openly endorsed Poe for president. It was the first time the top comedian had endorsed a candidate for public office.

Dolphy, who has so far only attended Poe's campaign sortie in Bicol, had told reporters he knew Da King as a young boy and that he loved the man enough to want to campaign for him.

Sotto, who is also from show business, said if the rumors were true that Dolphy was dropped by the network for his support for Poe, then it was "ugly."

Movie actor Eddie Garcia, who has been accompanying Poe in his sorties, and KNP senatorial bet Boots Anson-Roa said they wanted to confirm the report before making any comment.

KNP senatorial bet Juan Ponce Enrile could only surmise that this was "part of the deal that the Lopezes must help GMA and do whatever it takes to win this election."

## Shocked

"Whether they will use the resources of ABS- CBN, including kicking out anybody who will not toe the line like Dolphy," Enrile told reporters.

Movie producer Marichu Vera-Perez, also a known supporter of Poe, said she heard of the cancellation of "Home Along" last Friday. "I'm shocked and angry with what they did to him. Not everything is dollars and cents," she said. "People like Dolphy deserve respect."

---

# Explain bailout, GMA told

From page A1

Maynilad was a "a jackpot deal" for the Lopez family.

## Benpres stocks rise

He noted that shares of stock of Benpres and the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), another Lopez-owned utility, rose following reports of the agreement.

Benpres stocks rose by 9.8 percent while Meralco A and B shares went up by 1.3 percent and 3.39 percent, respectively, said Aquino, citing newspaper reports.

Roco also noted the "obscene haste" with which the government allegedly forged the deal.

"Why should they want to make decisions of this matter this late? What is the difference between now [and June)? Why not wait for June for the next president?" he said, adding that whoever won the presidential elections in May must review the plan.

Opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. expressed concern that the reorganization of Maynilad could result in higher water rates as the firm's losses would be passed on to consumers.

"*Sana pag-aralan ng mabuti ang agreement kasi kung tataas ang presyo ng tubig, ang mga consumers ang maaapektuhan*," Poe said yesterday from General Santos City where he was campaigning with his running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda.

## Loren's 1st direct attack

Legarda said the deal would further aggravate the budget deficit and was "a concrete example of President Macapagal's imprudent fiscal management."

"It should not be a practice of the government to take over losing private businesses, otherwise the government itself could end up bankrupt," she said.

It was the first time that Legarda, who bolted the President's party last October, directly attacked Ms Macapagal's management of the economy.

But Legarda, who, like De Castro, is a broadcast talent of the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN television, was careful not to comment on the allegations of the agreement being part of a deal with the Lopezes.

"I'm a vice presidential candidate and any comment could be misconstrued," she said, adding that Ms Macapagal and De Castro should explain the issue to the people.

## Spare issue for common good

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye called on the opposition "to spare this issue from politicking and instead support the government's move for the common good of water consumers in Metro Manila."

"We cannot just sit and shrug off an imminent crisis threatening the water service in major parts of the metropolis. The opposition insists that we must stop giving clean water to those who have none," Bunye said.

From Iloilo City, De Castro urged the parties to the agreement to make a full public disclosure and called on critics to take up the matter with the courts.

He said his rival Aquino should just face him in the campaign instead of trying to gain mileage by linking him to the agreement. "*Sino ba yon?* [Who is he?]" he said of his less popular opponent.

"There is no deal. I will never compromise public interest for any business transaction," De Castro said in a statement.

"I am not the spokesperson and cannot be the spokesperson of Maynilad because I am not a party to or connected with the government-Maynilad agreement. But I assure the Filipino people that my candidacy is not preconditioned or connected to any business deals with government," he said.

"Water is a strategic and public interest that must be secured by government at all times. There can be no other deal I know except public interest," he said.

De Castro also said it was not true that the takeover benefited the Lopez group who he said lost the company and also its credibility with its creditors as it was unable to pay its loans.

## No political agenda

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A. Teehankee, who headed the panel that advised the MWSS in negotiations with Benpres, said the agreement, which he called a "quasi-reorganization," was pursued without any political agenda.

"The deal is straightforward based on a number of prevailing circumstances to ensure that there is minimal disruption while preserving the privatization policy and fiscal interest of government," said Teehankee.

The agreement followed a long dispute between the MWSS and Benpres which won the concession to provide sewerage and water services to the western concession zone of Metro Manila when the state water utility was privatized in 1997.

Maynilad decided in late 2002 to terminate its 25-year concession after failing to win approval for rate increases.

After it was ordered by a Paris-based arbitration panel to pay the government about P8 billion in overdue concession fees last year, Maynilad petitioned the Quezon City regional court for debt relief and corporate rehabilitation.

Once the plan is approved by the court and Maynilad's creditor banks, Benpres and the MWSS would have to withdraw all legal cases against each other.

Teehankee said the quasi-reorganization proposal was presented by the new Maynilad management led by newly installed president Fiorello Estuar.

"This is the substitute rehabilitation plan submitted by Maynilad alongside its motion to withdraw the company's original plan submitted before the [Quezon City court] which contained onerous conditions unfavorable to all especially the creditors," Teehankee said in an interview.

## Pay debt after 9 years

In the first rehabilitation plan that it submitted, Maynilad proposed to pay its debts to all its creditors only at the end of nine years.

Teehankee said that before the government can fully take over the Maynilad concession, the agreement has to be reviewed and approved by the Quezon City regional court Branch 90, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the finance department and the National Economic and Development Authority.

After the approval, a second amendment of the concession agreement would be drafted, he said.

---

# Joma does it 'Mao's Way' in recording debut

From page A1

in the way of a recording debut for Philippine communist leader Jose Ma. Sison, now 65 and popularly known as Joma.

Sison's friends and supporters in Manila are working on a compact disc containing patriotic songs and popular classics that he himself recorded in Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he has lived in self-exile since the late 1980s.

Other tracks are by various local bands who have set his poems of rebellion to music.

The upcoming CD will have Sison giving that old Sinatra hit and videoke bar staple "My Way" a leftist twist. He did not change a line except that he "did it Mao's Way," Bidette Libres, who is overseeing the production, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

According to Libres, Sison is also singing Philippine revolutionary anthems like "Pag-Ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa," "Awit ng Proletaryo" and "Mutya/Awit ni Abdon," as well as foreign ones that he translated into Filipino, like the Italian "Bella Ciao" and the French "Internationale."

Sison's repertoire includes as well pop hits like "Windmills of Your Mind" and his Filipino version of the Mexican peasant song "Guantanamera," Libres added.

## Demystification

Teddy Casino, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the CD project could help "demystify Joma to the younger generations who hardly know him except for his writings."

"It can also help the campaign to get him off the 'terrorist' list, for it shows that he's far from being an Osama bin Laden," Casino said. "He's just like any other Filipino who's fond of singing."

Casino pointed out that Sison's being able to record his songs did not mean that he was "living in luxury," as certain government officials and other critics had alleged.

"He continues to live in a simple apartment, practically relying on the subsidy of family and friends for his basic needs," Casino said. "And the karaoke singing is just one of his simple pleasures, something which we know even poor Filipinos get to enjoy."

Casino emceed the March 10 tribute to Sison at the University of the Philippines' Bahay ng Alumni marking his 45th year of service in the revolutionary cause.

A sampling of Sison's recordings was played during a program dubbed "Kalibre 45."

## Release in May or June

The CD may be ready for commercial release in May or June, said Libres, executive director of Kodao, a multimedia production house based in Quezon City.

"Some of his friends are actually still sending him requests to record more songs to be added to the CD. He loves to sing, and I heard that it helps him cope with the stress [of exile]," she said.

Libres said Sison did his recordings on his computer and had been sending them via e-mail to various militant groups in Manila since last year.

The idea of compiling the recordings into a CD came from Committee Defend, a movement launched in August 2002 to draw support for Sison's legal challenge to the "terrorist" tag.

The CD was seen as one of the possible fund-raisers to help him pursue his case before the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg, said Ruth de Leon, Committee Defend coordinator and head of the secretariat of the National Democratic Front panel that has resumed peace negotiations with the Philippine government.

## Perfect '100'

The project is revealing a refreshing facet of Sison, who is now on his 16th year of self-exile since his release from political imprisonment under the Marcos dictatorship.

By the account of De Leon, widow of ranking NDF officer Antonio Zumel, Sison can carry a tune and takes to the sing-along machine especially when he and visiting comrades enjoy a relaxed time together at the NDF office in Utrecht.

The videoke system, the high-tech sort that comes with a wireless control pad *cum* microphone and features a "scoring" system, was a "gift" to Sison from a group of Filipino supporters based in the United States, she said.

De Leon said Sison had a "wide vocal range" and would score a perfect "100," usually when performing his favorites: folk songs from his native Ilocos Sur such as "Pamulinawen," "Manang Biday," and "O Naranyag na Bulan."

These ditties are among the Filipino songs included in the system's memory.

Sison also gets a "100" for the Beatles' "Michelle," De Leon said.

---

**THE CHARM OFFENSIVE**

# Spontaneous visits but a smoothie to the last detail

From page A1

interesting exchange, very much like a Mel and Jay or a Pareng Oca and Mareng Winnie show. We nudge Manglapus and ask him why he (De Castro) was there, and he answers that Noli is a sitting senator so it was all right for him to share the stage with her.

## Shrieks

Shrieks fill the air as De Castro opens the meeting with his trademark "*Magandang Hapon, Bayan!*". The President starts with a reference to the "sweet Zambales mangoes" that are famous the world over, and continues with laying out what she says is her plan to develop more markets worldwide for the fruit.

A local cable TV station is also covering the event for Zambales televiewers, a first in the campaign, part of the government's objective to inform more people about its programs, says Manglapus. Questions about health care are fielded to Philhealth representatives, who have application forms in hand for distribution later to those interested. Queries on student fund assistance and other governance-related projects like the *Patubig ng Bayan*, for instance, are directed to the Presidential Management Staff.

## Directorial expertise

Kashiwahara, who stays in the background most of the time, uses her directorial expertise to make sure everything is *planchado*(no hitches) in these mini productions or "events," down to the last detail, from the lighting and risers used for mobile cameras, as she "directs" the crowd and guides the President on stage and blocking procedures.

"Lupita tells me also if my hairdo is okay, like if it is too flat or too boyish," the President says with a laugh, "or if the makeup (she wears very little) is too harsh under the lights."

"I don't have a hard time because she knows exactly what to do," explains the award-winning director, a stickler for details whose reputation for discipline is legend in the entertainment industry.

Saying she couldn't say no when the President called her up in San Francisco (California), where she lives, to ask for her help, Kashiwahara explains: "I came running because I believe in her and also because I think the alternative is disastrous," adding that she "resurrects" in the country every three years, the last "resurrection" being in 2001 when she also helped out with the People Power Coalition campaign.

Although she relies on people like Kashiwahara, and her brother Paul Aquino, a K4 consultant for campaign organization and "fine-tuning" (pointers on poll-watching, sample ballots for distribution, etc.) for advice, there are times when Ms Macapagal puts her foot down on decisions already made, and even stamped with her seal of approval.

## Being herself

"She can be stubborn about being herself," points out Claudio, giving as example their choice of the two thumbs-up sign for the campaign to show a sense of being upbeat and optimistic. "She agreed to it initially, but later she told me that she did not like it. '*Hindi ako yan*, (It's not me),' she told me. So she's using the simple hand wave because that's her."

Today's hoopla, however, is reserved for the Gordon proclamation rally at 7 p.m. in Olongapo where he was once city mayor. It looked—and smelled—like a party convention at the huge Rizal triangle covered court, with streamers, bunting, loud music, and entertainers Giselle Sanchez and Sarah Geronimo drawing in the crowds.

"If we had our way, we would have toned down the rallies, *bawas-bawasan sana* (have less of it), but we can't help it," says Claudio. "Local audiences love the glitter and the excitement. I wouldn't underestimate its importance, though. A rally can be a measure of the strength of local politicians."

## Gordon's rally

The President begins by recalling her father's friendship with Gordon's late father James, also a former mayor of the city, and then proceeds to praise the "hard-working tourism chief" as a worthy addition to her slate. She also salutes the city's volunteer corps "who were among the first to go to Edsa II."

The senatorial candidates are presented one by one by Gordon: Osmeña, Mercado, Roxas (loud applause), Hussin (faint cheers), Lapid (louder applause), Cayetano (moderate), and Revilla (loudest). They descend the stage and start to work the crowd, some dancing, others shaking hands.

In 30 minutes, right on time, it was over.

A woman picks up one of the Gloria posters strewn on the floor now mad with confetti, sandwich wrappers, and unfinished packed dinners. "I am happy because I saw the President. She has my vote," she tells no one in particular.

She says she is from Pangasinan, just like Poe, but has lived in Olongapo for the last five years. "*Naaawa ako kay FPJ dahil mas maganda na yung dati niyang buhay, tapos pinasok pa niya ito. Ako, iniisip ko lang ang kinabukasan ko. Kay Gloria, mukhang may pag-asa* (I pity PFJ because he was already doing well in the movie industry before he decided to run. What I am concerned about is my future, and I feel I have much to be hopeful about with Gloria as president)."

## Divine Providence

Even with Ms Macapagal now running neck-to-neck with Poe in the surveys, Soliman says the upward trend doesn't mean they're about to hoist the victory flag. "We're not saying the game is won," she says. "It's still anybody's ball game."

Diosdado Macapagal once said: "You can plan becoming a senator or a vice president, but the presidency, that is in God's hands."

Asked about her chances of winning, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says tersely: "I believe in Divine Providence." *(To be continued)*

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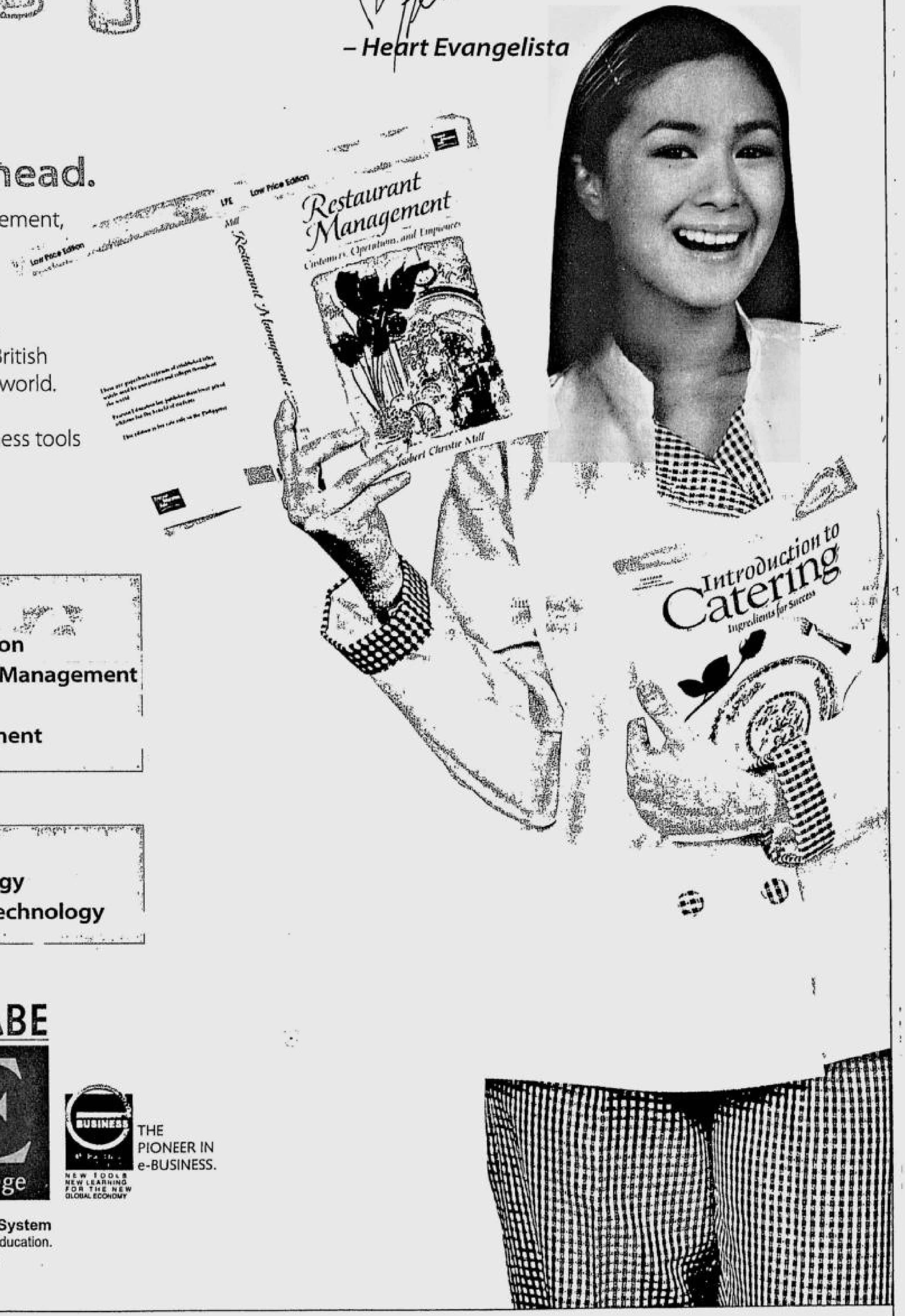

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# Horse-trading aborts bus strike

## *Jeepney groups also back out*

**By Clarissa Batino and Tina Santos**

LEADERS of all major bus organizations aborted their plans for a nationwide transport holiday on Monday after the government gave in to their non-fare demands.

Officials of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) met with leaders of seven biggest bus groups until late yesterday afternoon to avert a mass disruption of public bus service.

"It's not just status quo. We've totally scrapped the plan," said Claire dela Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa). Imboa represents all major bus operators in Metro Manila.

Alex Yague, president of the Alliance of Bus Operators, said they agreed to give up their demands for a fare hike in exchange for other concessions.

"We are giving in to the request of the government not to pursue fare hikes to focus on moves to reduce cost," Yague said.

DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza promised to work on giving special fuel discounts to public buses.

A participant in the talks told the INQUIRER that the government committed to initially give them a discount of 80 to 90 centavos per liter on diesel delivered to their respective depots.

However, the government said it would strive to further reduce the price of diesel sold to public buses to P16 per liter.

Yague said other concessions given the bus operators were a moratorium on "franchise related" violations and the speedy renewal of their franchises.

Asked whether "franchise related" violations meant that the government would suspend its drive against colorum buses, LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said "No."

She explained that it only entailed a moratorium on apprehensions for busted wipers, lights, running with curtains and similar violations.

Meanwhile, the leaders of major jeepney groups declared that they were also suspending plans to go on strike this week.

Efren de Luna, president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations, and Mar Garvida, president of Pinagisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide, both cited the lack of time to prepare for the mass action.

# Security beef-up

EIGHTY-EIGHT new police junior officers have been deployed to northern Metro Manila to boost peace and order efforts and thwart acts of terrorism in the district.

Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr., Northern Police District Office director, said the 88 new officers were among 588 distributed in the National Capital Region.

The new batch of lawmen will augment security at light rail transit stations, bus terminals and schools. *Tina Santos*

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# Sen. Pangilinan asks mayors to tear down 'Kinse Años' ads

PANGILINAN

TEAR them down.

That was the appeal of Sen. Francis Pangilinan to mayors and local government officials as he added his voice to the growing chorus calling for the dismantling of Napoleon Brandy's "Kinse Años" advertising billboards.

Describing the advertising gimmick as "an assault to decency," Pangilinan said the local officials were legally empowered to regulate immoral displays and exhibits.

"We call them to vigilantly exercise these powers," the senator stressed.

Pangilinan noted that Presidential Decree 603, the Child and Youth Welfare Code, provided that one of the basic and essential rights of a child was to be brought up in an atmosphere of morality and rectitude.

It also mandates that children should be protected from improper influences and hazards prejudicial to their physical, mental, emotional and moral development.

"PD 603 also provides that the community, meaning the local government, has the duty to ensure the right of a child to live in a moral environment, as well as eliminate possible influences from harmful and useless activities and obscene exhibitions," the senator stressed.

The advertising campaign of Destileria Limtuaco for its Napoleon Quince has been criticized for allegedly promoting the abuse of women and children.

The catch phrase of the ads which appear on giant billboards in Quezon City and Parañaque says in Filipino, "Have you tried a 15-year old?"

## METROBRIEFS

### US Embassy scuffle

ABOUT 500 anti-Iraq war protesters who tried to push their way to the US Embassy briefly scuffled with riot police yesterday. After some pushing and shoving, the demonstrators, led by the left-wing Bayan and the Justice Not War Coalition, hurled stones at the security personnel, who responded with water cannons as the protesters stood their ground. There were no reports of injuries or arrests. The protesters, some carrying placards that read "Fight, suppress the US war," were later allowed to hold their protest near the embassy. ***AP***

### PNP goes hi-tech

THE POLICE will be getting new equipment that will enable forensic experts to match fingerprints within minutes. The Japanese government will be giving the P495 million worth of equipment to the Philippines as a grant. In exchange, the police will take care of it's maintenance expenses. The AFIS or Automated Fingerprint Identification System machine is scheduled for delivery to the country by midyear, the police said. The AFIS can store up to 800,000 fingerprint records. ***Luige del Puerto***

### Rotary center

THE ROTARY Club of Intramuros will soon construct a Rotary Center, which will be the club's home, within the walls of Intramuros with the signing recently of a lease agreement between the Intramuros Administration and the club. The agreement was signed by officials of the Intramuros administration and the RCI. RCI president Manny Regio said the center was the club's project for the centenary of the Rotary International and RCI's silver anniversary.

# John O killed UP dream, exec says

**By Tina Santos**

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo lambasted Sen. John Osmeña for blocking the passage of Senate Bill 2587, which would have given way to a more responsive state university.

The Senate adjourned without passing the bill or even bringing to a vote the proposed measure that would have led to the revision of the UP Charter for the first time since its founding in 1908.

### Doomed

Nemenzo expressed dismay over the manner by which it was doomed to die on the Senate floor, largely on the account of Osmena's objections and demands.

He said the shelving of the bill on the Senate's adjournment dashed all hopes of bringing the UP Charter into the 21st century.

The UP president said the bill did not only seek to develop the institution as a state university but as a Philippine university with academic standards of excellence competitive with those of national universities in the region.

The bill seeks, among other things, to empower the Board of Regents, UP's highest policy-making body, to enter into joint venture agreements with the private sector in developing university property.

The university's students and employees claimed the provision may lead to the "commercialization of education," and eventually to the sale of the UP to private companies.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Nemenzo, stressed that the bill would have allowed UP to pay realistic salaries, improve its system of governance and generate more resources to augment its budget.

### Trapo culture

On March 4, Osmeña came out with a paid newspaper advertisement and said that the bill was not a "legislative gift to the university but merely represents a juicy retirement check for the overstaying UP president."

In his letter, Nemenzo retorted to the senator's statement saying, "There is nothing sinister about this bill. But his long immersion in *trapo* culture—in which he deserves an honorary doctorate—has made him (Osmeña) thoroughly cynical, believing that everyone thinks like him."

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**SPORTS TV**

Compiled by L. Manguiat

**MOTOR SPORTS:** 2004 F1 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix; Qualifying; 10 a.m. (r); Race Day; 2 p.m.; Star Sports—See if Schumacher claims another checkered flag in the second race of the season.

**BASKETBALL:** NBA-Celtics vs Spurs; 9:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Can struggling Boston change its fortune when it travels to San Antonio?

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

# Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
*Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

## Pacquiao 5th best in planet

**By Salven L. Lagumbay,** *Contributor*

THE MARCH toward marquee stardom continues for reigning consensus featherweight king Manny Pacquiao.

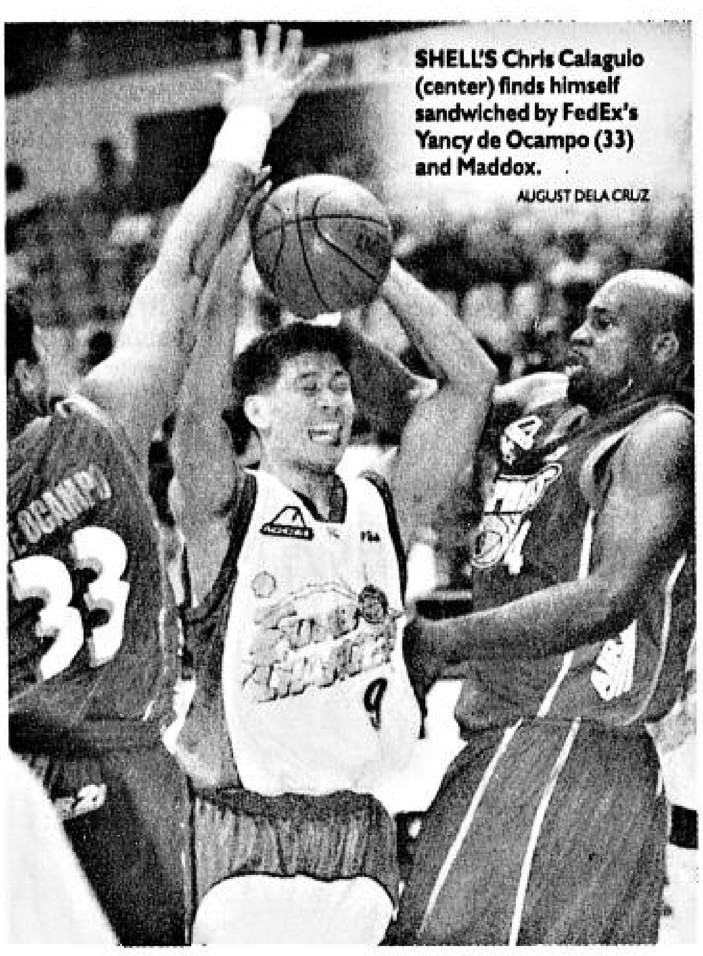
Yesterday, the Ring Magazine, considered as the "Bible of Boxing," upgraded the southpaw Pacquiao as the No. 5 pound-for-pound best fighter in the planet for March, up a notch from his No. 6 billing just last month.

The pound-for-pound system of rankings classifies the best boxers in all weight divisions, as ranked by Ring Magazine's expert writers and columnists.

Early this month, Ring Magazine editor in chief Nigel Collins visited the country to award Pacquiao his Ring belt, indicative of his billing as the finest featherweight boxer in the world.

WBC light heavyweight king Roy Jones Jr. remains the top pound-for-pound boxer in the world, followed by WBC/WBA/IBF middleweight champ Bernard Hopkins, WBC lightweight boss Floyd Mayweather, Golden Boy Oscar De la Hoya and Pacquiao.

Right below the Filipino ring idol are WBC/WBA/IBF junior middleweight champ Winky Wright and WBC featherweight ruler Erik Morales.



**SHELL'S Chris Calaguio (center) finds himself sandwiched by FedEx's Yancy de Ocampo (33) and Maddox.**

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## FedEx finally tallies victory

**GAMES TODAY** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods

**By June Navarro**

ANTIPOLO CITY—Watch out for this guy, Art Long.

FedEx finally found a crack reinforcement in Mike Maddox last night as the Express downed the Shell Turbochargers in overtime, 120-116, for their first win in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center here.

Maddox, who is familiar with San Miguel Beer prized import Long, proved the right replacement for Alvin Jefferson, who had a mediocre four-game stint.

He erupted for 27 of his game-high 38 points in the second half, including eight in the extension as the Express tied their victims at 1-4.

Long, who led the Beermen to a leading 5-0 record, played for University of Cincinnati and crossed paths with Maddox both in the amateur and pro ranks.

Red Bull Barako spoiled Siot Tanquincen's coaching debut with a 99-90 victory over Barangay Ginebra in the second game. The Barakos improved to 3-2 while the Gin Kings fell to 3-3.

Meanwhile, former Red Bull Barako Vince Hizon will be joining Bong Alvarez in the United States Basketball League this year. They will be playing for the Pennsylvania Valleydawgs.

**Scores:**

**FEDEX 120**—Maddox 38, Meneses 28, Ferriols 17, Yap 13, Ritualo 8, Arboleda 8, De Ocampo 3, Gonzales 3, Pingris 2, Rodriguez 0.

**SHELL 116**—Ondora 21, Bajar 19, Tubid 18, Calaguio 16, Hrabak 11, Ferreria 10, Dela Cruz 8, Alvarez 7, Mamaril 6, Jackson 0.

**Quarters:** 28-20, 56-44, 76-76, 107-107 (reg), 120-116

## BAP takes its time to join superbody, will study concept

**By June Navarro**

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines is not in a hurry to join the proposed basketball superbody.

Graham Lim, the BAP secretary-general, yesterday said his group has to make a thorough study of what the superbody is all about before accepting any invitation to join the new cage association on its next meeting this Friday.

"It would be wise to study its possible implications first before joining the group," said Lim, adding that when the BAP gets the official invitation, it will be deliberated upon by the national board.

The superbody, made up of major stakeholders in the sport including the PBA, PBL, UAAP, NCAA and other collegiate leagues, had decided the other day to come up with a binding covenant that will govern the group.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad and his deputy, Butch Maniego, were tasked to come up with a draft outlining the policies of the organization before submitting it to the superbody for approval.

"We are not looking at personalities here. What we are after is for the good of the sport. I hope the BAP will realize this," said Trinidad.

The BAP of Tiny Literal is locked in a power struggle against Nic Jorge's BAP Inc., which is claiming to be the legitimate national association of the sport based on a court order.

"We want to eliminate the misconception that the Bapi took the lead in forming the superbody. The stakeholders came together on their own knowing that this endeavor will serve Philippine basketball in good stead," said Trinidad.

A reliable source said that should the BAP treat the superbody's invitation with a cold shoulder, the superbody would cut off the BAP's main supply of national players, particularly the UAAP and the NCAA.

In another development, Lim shrugged off reports that the Bureau of Immigration had received a summary deportation order to boot him unceremoniously out of the country.

"Are they insane? Where will they deport me? It's pure harassment," said Lim, a Philippine-born Chinese who has been declared an illegal alien by the Justice department.

## Lascuña holds off Que rally

**By Musong R. Castillo**
*Contributor*

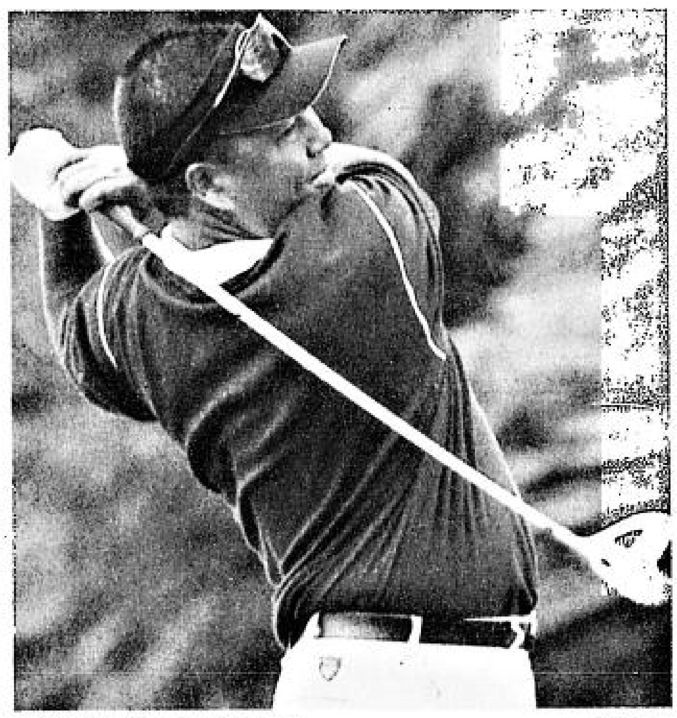
CANLUBANG, Laguna—Antonio Lascuña struggled off the tee on the back side yesterday, courageously scrambling for a level par 70 to hold off a red-hot Angelo Que and keep the lead after 54 holes of The Country Club Invitational.

Outdriven all day by younger flightmates Que and Cookie La'O, Lascuña proved a wizard around the greens, saving pars when needed in a one-birdie, one-bogey round for a 208 total, three-under over the 7,158-yard Country Club layout.

From five down at the start of the day, Que moved within one of Lascuña by shooting a tourney-best 66 even as La'O, who had another adventurous round for a third straight 70, dropped to third with a 210 aggregate.

Que missed six greens but gunned down five birdies against a lone bogey on a course rendered defenseless by the absence of the blustery gusts that kept scores soaring in the first round where he had a 76.

He picked up three birdies on the back nine, the last coming on the treacherous 18th, where a slightly pushed drive still left him with no more than a sand wedge for his second shot.



**LASCUÑA: Steady with a 70**

PDI PHOTO

"At least I'm still in the lead. I can't drive that way tomorrow. I have no choice but to come here with my best game," said Lascuña in Filipino as he aims to win the richest local tournament of the year after the Philippine Open.

The champion's purse is P1.1 million from the total pot of P3.2 million.

Two other players cracked par with Marciano Pucay and Elmer Salvador both assembling 69s to occupy solo fourth and sixth, respectively. Pucay, after a 74 and a 72, stood seven strokes off the lead at 215, while Salvador was at 218.

Danny Zarate churned out a second straight 72 and was fifth at 217, while Ramil Bisera, a journeyman who fell out of the first-round lead with a horrendous 79 Friday, bounced back with a 70 for solo seventh with a 219 total.

Robert Pactolerin was the only other player who played it level or better, his version of a 70 boosting him into a four-way tie at 220 for eighth with Jerome Delariarte (74), Marlon Dizon (74) and Benjie Magada (75).

After birdies on the par-5 second and the 338-yard par-4 fifth where he almost drove the green, Que babied his approach on No. 8 and landed in the trap. He blasted to within 20 feet and almost holed out for par.

Que blew birdie putts within five feet on Nos. 10 and 11 before picking up a shot on the par-5 14th. Que picked up a shot on the par-5 14th after a delicate chip and scored again on the next hole with a perfect pitch after missing the green.

The birdie putts didn't fall for Lascuña on the front nine.

## SEAG preparations on schedule—Dayrit

RIGHT on track.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit yesterday reiterated that "we're on schedule as far as preparations for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games are concerned."

**DAYRIT**

PDI PHOTO

According to Dayrit, also the Philsoc (Organizing Committee) head, most of the venues for the 34 sports calendared in next year's SEA Games have already been identified. These venues are located in Metro Manila, main hub of the SEAG which the Philippines is hosting for the third time.

He added that the Philsoc has yet to name the other sites because "venues being offered by provincial bidders are still being evaluated by the NSAs concerned."

Among the provincial bidders are Cebu, Pampanga and Negros Occidental.

The 34 sports approved by the SEAG Federation Council for inclusion in the 2005 SEAG are athletics, aquatics, arnis, archery, basketball, baseball, badminton, bowling, boxing, billiards/snooker, cycling, canoe/kayak, equestrian, fencing, football, golf, gymnastics, judo, petanque, pencak silat, sepak takraw, shooting, sailing, rowing/traditional boat race, taekwondo, table tennis, wrestling, wushu, chess, volleyball, softball, dancesport, triathlon and karatedo.

Officials of weightlifting, tennis, squash, lawn bowl, muay thai and bodybuilding are also batting for the inclusion of their sport.

Dayrit told these officials that they have until October to lobby for their respective sports. They need at least six votes from the 11 SEAG Federation member-countries to make the list.

Dayrit also bared that many NSA officials who were reportedly "restless" and "ready to go it alone" in preparing for the SEAG denied expressing this feeling.

Those disclaiming the INQUIRER report on Friday are judo president Reynaldo Jaylo, Julian Camacho (wushu), Tom Carrasco (triathlon), Johnny Romualdez (football), Ligaya Manalang (archery), Florencio Campomanes (chess), Ernie Fajardo (billiards) and Congressman Harry Angping (softball).

## Asian Cities chess tourney starts today

TAGAYTAY CITY—The 14th Asian Cities Chess Team Championship begins Sunday with four local teams and 15 foreign squads battling for the Dubai Cup at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

The host city, Mandaluyong, Pasay and Tanauan will carry the country's colors in the weeklong, nine-round tournament jointly organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Tagaytay City government led by Mayor Francis N. Tolentino.

Tagaytay looms as one of the teams to beat with the presence of Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Bong Villamayor and International Master Ronald Dableo, the reigning Asian Zonal champion. Completing the team is IM Jayson Gonzales.

Pavlodar of Kazakhstan, featuring super GM Pavel Kotsur, is bidding to retain the glittering Dubai Cup, a gold and silver trophy which was first awarded when the tournament was staged in 1996 in the United Arab Emirates city.

The other competing squads are from Sydney, Australia; Bandar Sewi Begawan, Brunei; Guangzhou, China; Hong Kong; Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Kanchipuram, India; Jakarta, Indonesia; Tehran, Iran; Macau; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Doha, Qatar; Dubai and Sana'a, Yemen.

Invited to grace the opening at 3 a.m. Sunday are Florencio Campomanes, World Chess Federation (FIDE) lifetime honorary president, FIDE vice-president Ignatius Leong, NCFP president Mat Defensor, PSC chair Eric Buhain and Mayor Tolentino.

Meanwhile, nine-year-old Luzzel Dacayo of Quezon City managed to squeeze a draw against GM-candidate Marc Paragua in the SEA Games' most bemedalled athlete's simultaneous exhibition Saturday.

Paragua posted 10 wins in one of the featured events of the First Quezon City Inter-School chess tournament at the 4th floor of Rotary Center in Roces Ave., Quezon City.

*With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

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BAY HILL DETOUR

# Woods hits a pothole, trails Maruyama by 9

**ORLANDO, Florida—Tiger Woods' drive for a fifth successive victory at the Bay Hill Invitational took a major detour on Friday.**

Trying to become the first player in history to win the same tournament five years in a row, Woods was out of bounds and in the trees on his way to a 2-over 74, which left him nine shots behind Shigeki Maruyama and needing to match his greatest 36-hole comeback to keep the streak alive.

"I just need to play well and put myself in position where I can give it a run on Sunday," Woods said. "If the leaders play well, hats off to them. I just need to take care of my own business."

As surprising as it was to see Woods so far down the leaderboard, it was equally stunning to see Maruyama playing like he owns this course.

In 10 previous rounds at Bay Hill, the Japanese star had never broken 70. Despite a three-putt bogey to end his round, Maruyama still piled up enough birdies for his second straight 66, giving him a two-shot lead over Darren Clarke, Chad Campbell and Stuart Appleby.

Maruyama was among the 36-hole leaders at Torrey Pines four years ago when Woods was trying to win his seventh consecutive PGA Tour event. Asked then if he could end the streak, Maruyama smiled and said, "No chance."

He and Woods wound up in a tie for second behind Phil Mickelson that year.

On Friday, Maruyama again showed deference when asked if he was the guy to end Woods' streak at Bay Hill.

**WOODS** hits his ball out from under a magnolia tree on the 15th hole. REUTERS

## Difficult question

"Very difficult question," he said with a smile. "Maybe eight shots from Tiger Woods after the third round, I would have a good chance."

Woods might be the least of Maruyama's worries.

Clarke had a chance to share the lead when he had a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, but he three-putted for bogey, dropping him to a 68. It took him a while to cool off, but Clarke saw the big picture.

"I'm only two shots back going into the weekend, which is not bad," he said.

Appleby holed a 30-foot birdie putt on his final hole, No. 9, for a 67.

Campbell could be the man to watch on the weekend.

A rock-solid Texan and one of the rising stars on the PGA Tour, he has kept mistakes to a minimum. Campbell escaped serious trouble on the first hole, making a 6-footer for bogey, but he chipped in for birdie on the par-3 second hole for the second straight day and finished with a 68.

Again, the loudest cheers were for his partner—Arnold Palmer, who can still put on a show.

The 74-year-old tournament host, likely playing in his last Bay Hill Invitational, hit driver from the fairway on No. 18 and chased it up the green to about 30 feet. He got his par for a 79, the first time he has broken 80 at his tournament in three years.

"He still got some game," Campbell said.

While it was a treat to play with the King for two days, nothing beats posing with him on Sunday when Palmer hands over the trophy and the $900,000 check.

"That would be awesome," Campbell said. "But I've got a lot of work ahead of me. I would like the opportunity to be there."

Several guys won't have that chance. No one has their work cut out for them quite like Woods.

## Blue skies

Maruyama was already done with his 66 when Woods teed off, and it was as clear as the blue skies over Bay Hill that scoring conditions again were benign.

None of that mattered to Woods, who flared a 3-wood out-of-bounds by about 6 inches on No. 11, leading to double bogey. He hit into the trees on No. 15 and had to pitch out sideways, leading to another bogey. *AP*

# *Schoolgirl scores 1-shot win*

JOHANNESBURG—Ashleigh Simon, a 14-year-old schoolgirl, won the South African Women's Open by one stroke on Friday from Sweden's Johanna Westerberg and Denmark's Carina Vagner. She is the first amateur and youngest player to win the title.

Simon last month played against the men at the Southern African Tour's Players' Championship, finishing last of 65 on 29 over par.

On Friday, playing in her home course, she carded a record nine-under-par 63 for a 54-hole eight-under par 208. *Reuters*

# Sorenstam storms ahead

## *Wie cards 67; Rosales falters*

SUPERSTITION Mountain, Arizona—Annika Sorenstam is in the lead in her first LPGA Tour start of the year, already exhibiting the skills that have made her the best female golfer in the world.

And 14-year-old Michelle Wie's 5-under 67 on Friday showed why so many believe she is the heir apparent.

Sorenstam shot a methodical 7-under 65 in the second round to take a one-stroke lead halfway through the Safeway International.

She was at 12-under 132, just ahead of Cristie Kerr, who matched her career best with a 9-under 63.

"It could have been lower," Kerr said. "I had a couple of putts slip out."

Still, Kerr called it "a ridiculously good day."

Defending champion Se Ri Pak (68) was three back at 9-under 135. First-round leader Kim Saiki shot a 73 to drop five shots back at 7-under 137.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales ballooned to a 74 and skidded into a tie at 141, nine shots off the lead.

The buzz through the big galleries surrounded Wie, the teen sensation who was seven back at 5-under 139.

Wie had eight birdies and three bogeys in the 32-degree (90-plus F) sunshine of the Superstition Mountain Golf club 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of downtown Phoenix.

"I don't think I hit my shots as good as I did yesterday," Wie said,

She reeled off four consecutive birdies on holes six through nine and reached 6-under through 14 holes, but had bogeys on the par-4, 310-yard 15th and par-4, 412-yard 16th.

Wie reached the green in two shots twice on par-5 holes. On the 552-yard 13th, she drove it about 320 yards off the tee, easily made the green on her next shot, then barely missed a 12-foot putt for eagle before tapping in for her seventh birdie of the round. *AP*

**Rosales tees off on the ninth hole.** REUTERS

# Abiera, Bitong power team to victory

LITO Abiera and Sonny Bitong conspired for a net five-under-par 67 at the tougher Masters course to power their team to victory in the centerpiece Group I division during the recent Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club course in Carmona, Cavite.

Together with the 69 scored by Marty Ilagan and his partner Raffy Campos at the Legends layout, Abiera and his squad walked away with a four-stroke win in the four-man team tourney that used the scramble format.

Shean Bedi-Boy Escaño shot 69 while Hanson So Sr.–Thirdy Escaño added a 71 to settle for the runner-up trophy.

Tight battles also punctuated the other four divisions of the monthly tourney sponsored by Samsung, Mitsubishi Motors, Thai Airways, Northwest Airlines, Royal Carribean Cruise and Wilson. There were 290 teams which saw action.

Group II honors went to the quartet of William Co, Victor Gabor, Tony Co and KC Tan while the squad of Dante Yatco, Jeff Co, Ike Yusingco and Perry Morales went home with the Group IV diadem.

A pair of husband-and-wife teams combined to rule Group III as Glenda and Quito da Roza tallied a 72 to lift EJ and Jun Villacorta, who scored a 78, to a one-stroke win.

All division winners went home with Samsung microwave ovens while the second placers each won an Oster Griller. The biggest prize for the tourney, a Samsung DVD receiver home theater system, went to Japanese expat Akira Kubora whose name was picked as the grand raffle winner.

Meanwhile, preparations are in full blast for the club's much-awaited member-guest tourney, the Southwoods Invitational, slated on April 1-4.

William Co and company aggregated 138 to beat Manuel Ozamis, Roger Adajar, Gil Domingo and Milton Lalisan by two while Yatco and his team assembled a 142 to finish three strokes clear of Lolit Arguelles, Mila Hechanova, Daisy Tuason and Nini Samaniego.

# SPORTSWATCH

## Badminton qualifying tilt today

THE PIONEER Badminton summer tournament will hold its final leveling playdate today at the Pioneer Badminton courts in Mandaluyong City. The event will serve as the last qualifying round to determine the category of each player when the tournament fires off on April 3-4. Pioneer Badminton's Edmin Tarriela said the event would be followed by the Epson Summer Camp slated on April 12-May 3 (first batch) and May 10-May 31 (second batch). Tournament sponsors include Epson, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 89.9 DWTM, Regatta, Whistlestop, Sunrise Hotel, Discovery Spa and Yehey.com. "We have limited the number of participants in the tournament from 240 to 260 to keep competition at a high level," said Tarriela, who also organized three high-caliber tournaments last year. Interested parties may call 746-0828 or 638-5343 for details. Participants for the Epson Summer Camp should enroll before April 12. Camp director Eg Lim will facilitate the Epson Summer Camp along with former national teammates Malvin Alcala and Steven Yan.

## Summer swimming camp set

BERT Lozada Swim School (BLSS), the only swim school in the Philippines affiliated with the National Swim School Association, USA and has instructors certified by the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety, yesterday announced the opening of its Summer Learn-to-Swim Camp for ages 6 months old (My Baby and Me Program) up to adults (Adult Fitness Swimming) above at various venues in Metro Manila and the provinces. The Swim Camp is from March 15-June 6. For more details please call 563-5532/562-8041/805-0237/803-5998/09204417984 or visit our website at www.bertlozadaswimschool.com.

## Black cage clinic listing extended

THE DEADLINE for registration for the Burlington Skills Camp with Norman Black has been extended to March 31 to accommodate numerous requests from the public. The Burlington-sponsored cage clinic is the only basketball school where a grandslam PBA coach assisted by national coaches and former pro players personally conducts all the 3-week training sessions at the Metro Gym in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. It is open to boys and girls 10 to 18 years old who want to improve their game. Aside from shooting, rebounding, passing and ball-handling drills, coach Black has included plyometrics exercises in the training to further hone the individual's leaping ability and lateral movement. For inquiries, interested parties may call TEAM at 894-3576 or 894-3014. The Burlington Basketball Skills Camp is also supported by Shocks XT, Puma, Slazenger, Camp and Bally socks.

## Sports activities up at SM Malls

SPORTSHOUSE, the leading sports and fitness gear retailer, will launch its second edition of three sports activities at several SM Malls starting on Sunday. According to Mars Chua, founder of Sportshouse, the darts, basketball and badminton events will be bigger and more exciting than last year. The 2003 edition was a tremendous success so the SM management requested Sportshouse for an encore. "Aside from actual competition, we have added clinics on how to properly play the game. We have invited noted coaches to impart their know-how of the games," said Chua, who is also a ranking Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) officer. The darts activities shall commence March 21 at SM Manila while the basketball fever shall begin on March 26 at the SM Southmall.

## NCA 7-cock derby resumes Tuesday

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby series resumes at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum on Tuesday and Thursday, March 23 and 25. To host the event are NCA president and Gov. Ito Ynares of Rizal and businessman Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas. Submission of weights is on Monday, March 22, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928 (look for Gloria Avena). Two entries emerged as champions in last Thursday's NCA 7-Cock Derby after posting six wins apiece. These were PEBR Firefly sa Las Piñas March 27 of Boy Royo, Pol Estrellado and Boy de Roca and Silver Buck of Alex Tang. Meanwhile, another 7-cock derby is scheduled on April 13 and 15 with Tony Tan, Tony Marfori and Pepito Ngo as hosts.

## LGBA holds screening, wingbanding

SCREENING and wingbanding of cockerels conducted by the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) starting last March 1 to date resulted in 73 game farms visited and 10,738 cockerels screened and wingbanded. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz mentioned that 54 more members have made their reservation for screening and wingbanding of their cockerels of which deadline will be on March 31. LGBA members are requested to contact the LGBA Office at Rm. 128, Sulo Hotel in Quezon City and look for Ms Taz Lunasco or call tel. nos. 926-7808, 924-5072 and 924-5051 loc. 128 for their stag screening and wingbanding updates. Meanwhile, screening and wingbanding of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), an umbrella organization of major breeders groups in the country including the LGBA, will be from April 1 to 30 only.

## Nangka batters top Marikina meet

THE NANGKA Red Stings of the Nangka Batted Balls Association (Nabba) won the championship in the recent First Marikina Youth Baseball Tournament by trouncing the Jesus dela Peña Seals, 8-2, in the Bronco (11-12 years old) division at the Marikina Sports Center. The Seals earned the right to face the Red Stings after they outclassed the Sto. Niño Saints, 14-11, thereby relegating the Saints to third place. Awarding ceremony was led by Rep. Del De Guzman and Marikina Vice Mayor Marion Andres together with Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr., president of the Philippine TOT Baseball Foundation. Four players were given special awards, namely: Jomar Rivera, most valuable player; Carl Emmanuel Abad, best hitter; Renz Paul Cruz, best defensive player; and Randolf Rivera, best pitcher. St. Marcellin Baseball Team of Marist School received the Guest Champion Trophy. Engineer Ricky Florencio said a Marikina Youth Bronco Selection team was formed from the baseball clubs which took part. It will join the Swift Pony Summer Invitational Baseball/Softball Classic slated May 15-22.

## Boxing show honors Joe Cantada

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today commemorates the 12th death anniversary of the late Joe Cantada with a fitting tribute. Cantada, together with noted sports commentator Taby Tabanlag started the original Fistorama on television 35 years ago. It went on for 26 straight years as the top television boxing program in the country. Cantada died of cancer at the zenith of his sports broadcasting career in March, 1992. Samsung's Fistorama also features spectacular bouts of OPBF's reigning mini-flyweight champion Rodel Mayol and up and coming sensation Benedict Sulco. The show is aired at 2 p.m. Sundays, on RPN-9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils., Corp. and Tanduay Rhum. Golf Power, featuring the conclusion of the two-part golf special on the 57th PAL Inter-Club, follows the boxing program at 3 p.m.

## Laguna inter-town cagefest starts

TWENTY-THREE teams will slug it out for the crown when the Samsung-2nd Governor's Cup Laguna Inter-Town Basketball Tournament starts today at the new San Luis RECS in Barangay Bubucal, Santa Cruz, Laguna. The participating teams are Pila, Kalayaan, Alaminos, Los Baños, Siniloan, Nagcarlan, Liliw, Sta. Cruz, Pagsanjan, Pakil, Pangil, Paete, Biñan, Bay, Cavinti, Sta. Rosa, San Pedro, Lumban, Sta. Maria, Mabitac, Magdalena, Calauan and Calamba. Invited as guests in the opening ceremonies starting at 2 p.m. are Laguna Gov. Teresita S. Lazarp, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. president/chief executive officer Sang Youl Eom and Provincial Sports and Games Development Office head Dennis Lazaro. Tournament director is Roberto Depatillo.

## Top riders join Mapandan classic

TOP riders, headed by 2003 Tour champion Arnel Quirimit, will vie for cash prizes and top honors in the 8th Mapandan (Pangasinan) Invitational Cycling Classic on Thursday, March 25. Touted to crowd Quirimit are former Marlboro Tour champs Victor Espiritu and Warren Davadilla, plus 57 other riders. Mapandan mayor Jose Ferdinand Calimlim Jr. bankrolled the 138.5-km race, which will be held in conjunction with the Mapandan town fiesta. Santi Barnachea is the defending titlist.

# What super body?

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

I DON'T know why they are calling their babe the "super body." It's not a "super body" at all since it is powerless from the very start. It's a misnomer, to say the least.

I refer to the "super body" some people are allegedly trying to form to "put order to Philippine basketball." Their idea—the craziest ever since man thought the world was flat—can only be best describe as a work next to witchcraft.

For one, a "super body" is something that is a virtual fix-it-all association. It has powers broader than the usual.

For another, a "super body" is one that draws together all sectors for a common stand. It is formed out of the need to do something big that redounds to the benefit of the majority, if not everybody.

Alas, the "super body" these guys are trying to form does not conform to the spirit behind the move.

To begin with, how can this so-called "super body" succeed when the crucial association (Basketball Association of the Philippines) that is supposed to be its main ingredient isn't a party to it?

That is so because some of the framers of the "super body," if not the majority of them, seemed bent on isolating the one association (BAP) that holds the key to the success of the project—if it would push through at all.

People can be so crazy sometimes.

Just to achieve their goal, they will do everything—never mind if they are doing it the right way or not. Thing is, as one of the instigators of the "super body" put it: "It's got to be done. And let history judge us afterwards."

History has actually nothing to do with stupidity.

You do something foolish now, you get a guilty verdict now: Idiocy.

The element of time does not exist in skullduggery.

The trouble with some of the authors of the "super body" is, they have an agenda they think they can hide.

But fakery, like odor, is a hide-and-seek thing. It can't hide forever. Sooner or later, it will be exposed.

It's been actually unmasked before it could even be unwrapped.

It's been very obvious, fellas. The framers—many of them anyway—have this sinister plot to destroy the BAP. They have this distorted belief that with the formation of their "super body," it will trigger the death of the BAP.

They can do anything they want to do, but alas, they are mistaken: They can never kill the BAP, nor replace the BAP's leaders.

They know the reason. Why they continue to ignore it is beyond me.

Look, the BAP is recognized both by the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission. Include the World Basketball Federation (Fiba).

The people backing the legitimacy of the BAP include POC president Cito Dayrit and POC chair Robert Aventajado, and PSC chair Eric Buhain; this is not to include Dr. Manny Angeles, president of Prisaa.

If you have the country's top sports leaders backing the BAP, not to mention the mother international federation that is the Fiba, is that not enough?

I'd say that's more than enough.

Why the men behind the "super body!"—most of them, anyway—continue to defy this basic truth is, again, beyond me.

But there is a ray of hope.

In the papers yesterday, I read that the PBA's 1-2 punch—Commissioner Noli Eala and Chair Buddy Encarnado—have sang a new tune: They now want to include the BAP to their "super body."

That's a welcome relief. It means there are people within this so-called "super body" who still possess some sense in their coconuts.

Now, if I may make a suggestion: Make the BAP the lead agency in this "super body" being planned.

That way, this babe in the woods will really become the "super body" that it is envisioned to be.

That way, that black idea about some unscrupulous people trying to usurp power from the BAP will finally vanish.

That way, we will really have a unified stand to achieve unity in the sport we all love the most.

***

**FASTBREAK.** Dream Cable's Channel 49 will air today the Caltex Masters final at 12:30a-3:30a ET Live (USA Feed), 12:30a-3:30a ET Live (Asian Feed) and 0530-0830 GMT.

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# Henman stuns Roddick

## *Davenport sets up final vs Hardenne*

**INDIAN WELLS, Calif.—Tim Henman frustrated Andy Roddick with his tenacious net play and defeated the big-serving American, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (1), 6-3, in the Pacific Life Open quarterfinals.**

Two-time women's champion Lindsay Davenport reached her fifth final in her last seven appearances at Indian Wells, beating Nathlie Dechy of France, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Davenport, a former No. 1 player, will face top-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium in Sunday's final. Henin-Hardenne took only 56 minutes to defeat Anastasia Myskina of Russia, 6-1, 6-1, in their semifinal.

Irakli Labadze of Georgia, 0-4 this year coming into the tournament, beat American James Blake, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-1, in the men's other quarterfinal.

American Andre Agassi plays top-ranked Roger Federer of Switzerland, and 22-year-old Labadaze faces Henman in Saturday's semifinals.

Both the men's and women's finals are on Sunday.

The clash of styles—Roddick's power game against Henman's accurate ground strokes and volleying—made for an entertaining duel.

Henman holds a 3-1 career edge over Roddick, with all three earlier meetings coming last year. Six of the 11 sets they've played were decided by tiebreakers, with Henman winning four.

"I told him when we shook hands that next time we'll have to play a close one," Roddick, of the United States, joked. "Credit goes to him. He just toughed me out."

Henman, a 29-year-old tour veteran from London, said, "It's always been very, very tight against him. Sometimes they go your way."

Henman, beaten in straight sets by Lleyton Hewitt of Australia two years ago in the tournament final, was facing match point in the 12th game of the second set against Roddick. But Roddick hit a forehand long, Henman followed with a service winner, then Roddick netted a return to take it to a tiebreaker.

Roddick began it with a double fault, and got his only point when Henman's forehand was wide on the second point. Henman simply outplayed Roddick—who looked increasingly frustrated—in the third set. *AFP*

**HENMAN** celebrates his win over Roddick. AFP

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# Bibby's shot lifts Kings past Pacers

## Knicks rip Kidd-less Nets

INDIANAPOLIS—Mike Bibby hit a jumper with just 1.2 seconds left to give the Sacramento Kings a 94-92 win over the Indiana Pacers in a showdown between two of the National Basketball Association's best teams on Friday.

Jermaine O'Neal hit a pair of freethrows to tie the game with 24.7 seconds left, as Chris Webber fouled out of the game on the play.

But Bibby helped the Kings end their two-game losing streak by sinking his shot from just inside the 3-point arch to give Sacramento a key win in the battle for first place in the overall standings.

Sacramento improved to 50-19, overcoming a 17-point first half deficit to move to within a half game of the Pacers (50-18).

Bibby scored 25 points for the Kings, while Chris Webber added 24 points and 16 rebounds.

Peja Stojakovic chipped in with 17 points for the winners, while Brad Miller had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

O'Neal led the Pacers with 23 points and seven rebounds.

In New York, Stephon Marbury had seven of his nine assists in the first quarter, and finished with 21 points to help New York snap a five-game losing streak against its cross-river rival following a 79-65 win.

The Nets played without stars Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin. Kidd (bone bruise, left knee) went on the injured list earlier in the day and Martin (knee tendinitis) also sat out.

Tim Thomas added 16 points for New York. Richard Jefferson scored 25 points for New Jersey.

In Toronto, Eddy Curry had a season-high 28 points to help Chicago beat Toronto, 96-91, and snap a seven-game losing streak.

Kirk Hinrich added 21 points and 13 assists, and Antonio Davis had 18 points and 14 rebounds against his former team.

In Cleveland, Raja Bell scored 23 points to help Utah end the Cleveland's seven-game winning streak with a 97-88 win.

Andrei Kirilenko had 21 points and four blocked shots, and Carlos Arroyo had 15 points for the Jazz.

Cleveland's LeBron James, sick with a cold, was 4-for-14 for 14 points. Zydrunas Ilgauskas led Cleveland with 24 points. *Reuters, AP*

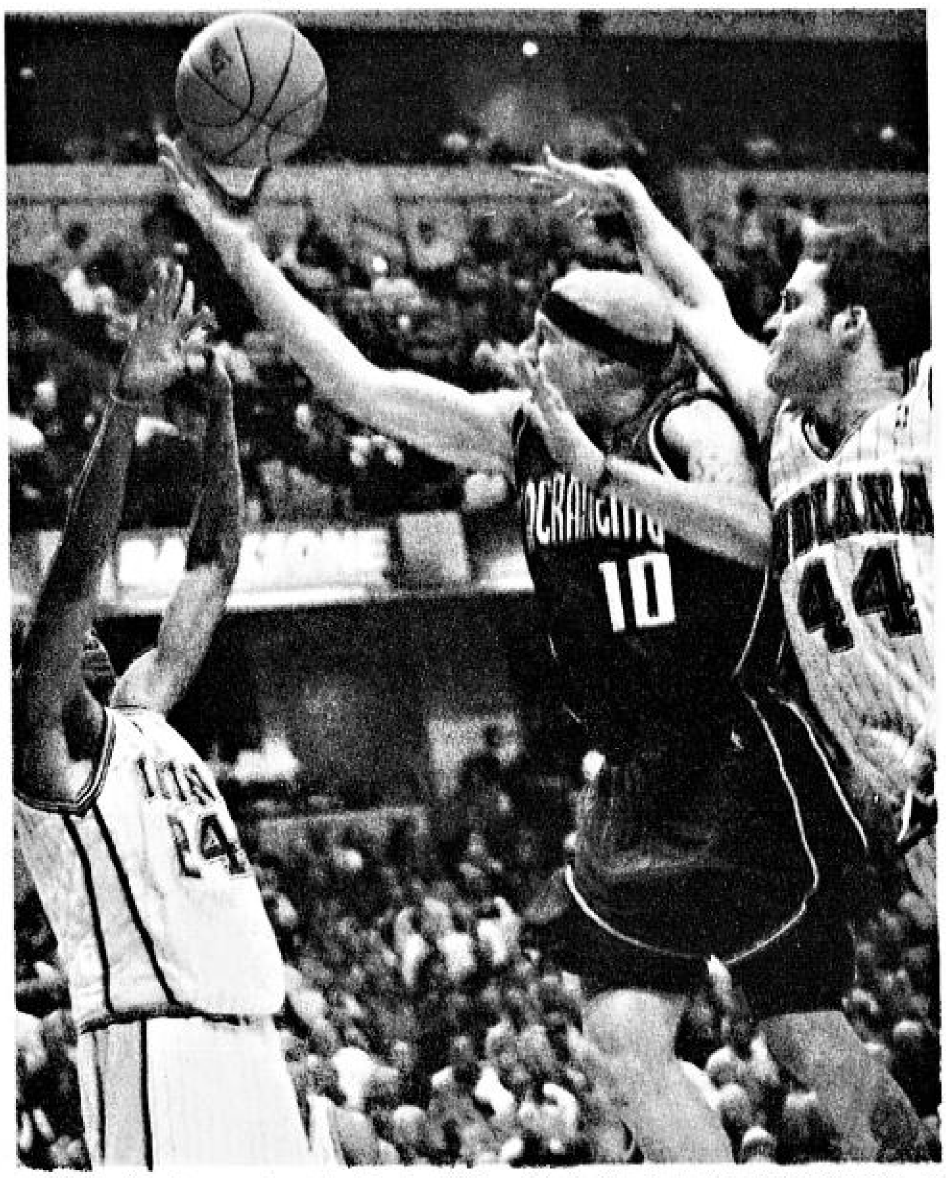
**Complete results:**

Washington 94, Atlanta 84; Chicago 96, Toronto 91; New York 79, New Jersey 65; Utah 97, Cleveland 88; Sacramento 94, Indiana 92; Seattle 91, New Orleans 80; Detroit 94, Denver 75; Dallas 120, Boston 104; Minnesota 93, Phoenix 80; LA Lakers 106, LA Clippers 100; Golden State 90, Houston 84.

## NCAA upset

NEW YORK—Miah Davis scored 19 points to lead the No. 12 seed Pacific to a stunning 66-58 win over fifth seed Providence in the St. Louis Regional of the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

It was the second upset by a 12th seed over a fifth seed—Manhattan stunning Florida, 75-60, in the East Rutherford Regional on Thursday—in as many days. *Reuters*



BIBBY lays it up between Jonathan Bender (left) and Austin Croshere of the Indiana Pacers. EPA

# USA Basketball extends invitations to Shaq, KG

NEW YORK—The US team that coach Larry Brown takes to the Athens Olympics may bear only a passing resemblance to the qualifying team that went to Puerto Rico last year.

Officially, only one roster spot is completely unspoken for after the USA Basketball selection committee extended invitations to Shaquille O'Neal and Kevin Garnett this week.

But in reality, significant changes could be made in the months ahead.

One roster spot belongs to Kobe Bryant, whose sexual assault trial is expected to keep him from participating in the Olympics.

Another belongs to Bryant's teammate on the Los Angeles Lakers, 40-year-old Karl Malone, who has said he will not play unless he's 100-percent healthy.

Then there's Ray Allen, who is expecting the birth of a child right around the time of the gold-medal game. Also, Jason Kidd has been playing on a troublesome sore knee, and Jermaine O'Neal has been bothered all season by knee tendinitis.

Vince Carter, who played for the US team at last summer's qualifying tournament but was not guaranteed a spot on the Athens roster, has already ruled himself out so he can recover from the wear and tear of the NBA season. *AP*

# Schumacher grabs 57th career pole

SEPANG, Malaysia—Michael Schumacher grabbed the 57th pole position of his career Saturday, seeing off a challenge at the Malaysian Grand Prix by Spaniard Fernando Alonso, who spun out trying to close a half-second gap on the six-time world champion.

REUTERS

SCHUMACHER

Schumacher clocked 1 minute, 33.074 seconds in his Ferrari on the 5.543-km (3.445-mile) Sepang International Circuit. Earlier in the day, he recorded 1:33.391 in practice.

Mark Webber in a Jaguar posted a surprise second with 1:33.715. Rubens Barrichello in the other Ferrari took third at 1:33.756.

"It was a mind-blowing lap, I have to say," Schumacher said. "Everything was perfect and spot-on. Everything went well with the car."

Schumacher's performance bettered the previous best time for a pole position at Sepang—set by him in 2001, when he clocked 1:35.266.

The pole was Schumacher's second of the season after he dominated the F1 season opener in Australia, setting Ferrari on course to take another title. The German ace is now closing in on the late Ayrton Senna's record of 65 poles.

The Malaysian race is the second outing for the new, heavily criticized qualifying format.

Schumacher trailed in Friday's second practice, and it appeared Ferrari might face a tough challenge, especially in the tropical heat, where its Bridgestone tires were believed to be inferior to rivals running on Michelins.

"We were looking in difficulty yesterday, but we managed to put it back on the road," Schumacher said.

Schumacher gained almost a second from his time on the first lap of qualifying, when he went out first in line with the finishing order of the Australian race.

"I would say the main difference was the circuit," Schumacher said. On the first lap, "I was the first car, the circuit sweeper."

Both Ferrari drivers were concerned about the weather, with track temperatures approaching 55 degrees (131 Fahrenheit).

"The car performance is very little affected," Schumacher said. "It is much more the tire's performance. Once you go above a high temperature, you have less grip available. Inside the cockpit, it does make a difference and it makes our work very hard. *AP*

# Hocus focus at SLLP

**ONE WINNER**

*Edwin Villanueva*

WOE to those who bet on Adam's Call last March 14.

The horse lost via a controversial photo to Conquer D Sun, sparking a howl of protests from the *bayang karerista*.

What made Adam's Call's backers more furious was the fact that, from the angle shown on TV monitors during the replays, Adam's Call appeared to have won by a narrow margin.

Here are some of the comments by racing fans from the website bayankarerista.org.

***

"Last March 14, *kay* Adam's Call *lahat ng tao sa* OTB *na tinatayaan ko, maliwanag sa tingin naming lahat na siya ang nanalo pero biglang* Conquer D Sun ang dineklara. Hocus focus, *mga pare ko, sa litrato. Mukhang kinunan mga* 1 meter before the finish line *dahil duon namin nakitang lumagpas ang* Conquer D Sun. *Iba talaga sa* SLLP!

*Isa pa ang* First Pick *kung saan may* 20 winners. Total gross for the first Pick 6 ay 1.9+M less *natin ang* tax *na* 35 percent = 1.2+M. *Kaya ang dapat na* prize *nung* 20 winners *ay* around 61 to 62 thousand pesos *pero ang naging* dividend *ay* 59thou *lang. Maliwanag na* 2 to 3 thousand *ang* cut *ng* SLLP *sa* 20 winners! *Siguro kinapos sila para sa* Commissioner's Cup *kaya* cut *sila dito para pandagdag. Sana ay mali ang hinala ko.*

Another one has this to say:

"*Napansin ko na malayo masyado ang kamera ng* WCPI *sa* finish line unlike before. *Naka-*zoom *ang* finish line *sa kamera kaya madaya tingnan. Di matatawaran ang* accuracy *ng* foto machine *kasi di binabago ang posisyon nun bukod sa talagang nakatutok yun sa mismong* finish line. *Sa palagay ko nanduon ang kamera sa likod ng salamin na nakalinya sa* finish line.

*Kung matatandaan mo, palaging sinasabi ng mga* panelist *ng* WCPI *na di opisyal ang nakikita natin na* photo *sa* TV *sa kadahilanang paiba-iba ang pagpupuwesto nila ng mga* video cam *nila samantalang ang* photo cam *ay naka-*steady *lang sa puwesto at sadyang pangkuha ng mga* photo finish.

***

From reader Herbert Mallari of Llano, Caloocan City:

"I'm a new racing fan. A few days ago, I read in the Dividendazo that there's a horse named First of All and the owner is no less than Fernando Poe Jr. *Anu-ano pa po ba ang iba nyang kabayo?*"

***

First of All, perhaps, is the only active galloper campaigning for the FPJ Stables.

Many years back, FPJ raced popular runners such as Graceful Lady and My Lady Grace, both named after his only daughter.

First of All's dam is in fact Graceful Lady, a champion import who clashed with the likes of Marangal, Obra Maestra, Nijipsy, Matatag and other classy chargers during her prime.

The blue-and-white silks of FPJ also shone brightly through Lord Joseph, Funny Valentine and, of course, The King.

El Maestro Jesus Guce and Manolito Daquis were the stable's top jockeys. Former rider Valentin "Boying" Guerra remains as chief conditioner of FPJ's horses.

By the way, there's a new galloper whose name already rings a bell to *kareristas*.

Though he's not owned by FPJ (registered owner is FB Reyes), the seldom-raced Fernando D King always attracts fans each time he "appears" at the races.

***

*E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com.*

# Eagle Ridge summer camp activities slated

IN THE beginning there were just golf holes at Eagle Ridge. Then the golf holes became just too many, and not long ago came the courts for basketball, badminton and tennis, bowling alleys and billiards tables.

With the creation of the country's biggest sports complex now virtually complete, an exciting summer comes to mind.

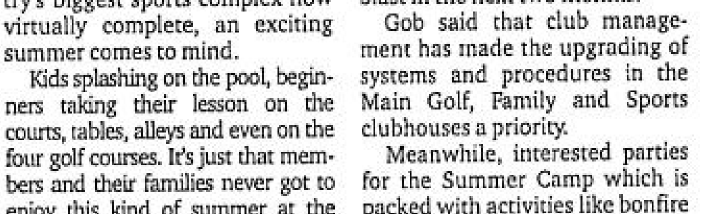
Kids splashing on the pool, beginners taking their lesson on the courts, tables, alleys and even on the four golf courses. It's just that members and their families never got to enjoy this kind of summer at the sprawling 700-hectare property built by joint-venture partners Sta. Lucia Realty and Alsons Land before.

"It's going to be a summer unlike the previous ones, that's for sure," said ERGCC project director engineer Wini Gob.

Among the early activities lined up are a summer camp during the Holy Week, regular tournament for bowling and the inaugural club championships for golf. Then all sports will go full blast in the next two months.

Gob said that club management has made the upgrading of systems and procedures in the Main Golf, Family and Sports clubhouses a priority.

Meanwhile, interested parties for the Summer Camp which is packed with activities like bonfire session, barbecue party, fishing, storytelling, magic show and Easter Egg Hunt slated April 10-11 may call the membership affairs office at 046-4192841.



EAGLE Ridge's resort-type swimming pool

## RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Bulakeña 2. Coromell
Race 2—1. Bravada 2. Double Check 3. Diamond Charlie 4. Sweet and Lovely
Race 3—1. Sandata 2. Princess Ann 3. Dressed to Impress
Race 4—1. Lady Lawyer 2. Romario 3. Black Gold 4. Happy Hoser
Race 5—1. Arrivederci 2. Gallli 3. Doña Gelay
Race 6—1. Fly Aday Fly 2. Ocean Deep/Joint Account 3. Time Will Reveal 4. Presidentiable/Scud Missile 5. Starry Night
Race 7—1. Material Maker/Lord of All 2. Arriba King 3. Hantuchova
Race 8—1. Moab/Concorde 2. Friendly Venture 3. Day Break 4. Bella Firenze
Race 9—1. My Rabbonnie 2. Winning Prize 3. Born Perfect 4. Musika 5. Native Talent
Race 10—1. Toril 2. Shadowfax 3. King's Choice 4. Queen of Gala 5. Kumpirmado
Race 11—1. Glamour 2. Enchanted Mist 3. Treeline
Race 12—1. Dashing 2. Words of Joy 3. Hurry Prince 4. Secret Marshall 5. Skip Away
Race 13—1. La Vida 2. Lucky Fil 3. Gleaming Heart 4. Shotgun Banjo 5. Bring Home D Bacon 6. Touch of Luck

# Guidicelli tops karting opening leg

CARMONA—Frustrated over the surprise twist that led to his fall in the Open Class, Matteo Guidicelli of Team CRG-Cebu bounced back in the Formula Rotax Juniors Class behind a masterful performance down the wire at the start of the Shell Karting Superseries 2004 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 13-year-old Guidicelli, champion of the Manila leg of the Asian Zone karting last year, held his ground against equally tough Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing for his big win in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

He finished the race in 16:49.547, just a mere 0.333 of a second ahead of runner-up Bumgarner in the 20-lap race sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Marlon Stockinger took third place with 16:51.521 while Marty Aguilar of M&M Racing and 9-year-old Paco Rodriguez of Team CRG-Cebu wound up forth and fifth, respectively.

Sharing the limelight with Guidicelli was Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile protege Rafael Oracion who topped the KT Light class over runner-up John Paul Dizon and third placer Oliver Aquino.

The TRS-Pika Kids Karting is held under the aegis of the Tuason Racing School and the Philippine International Karting Association under the new leadership of its president, JP Tuason.

# Laguna marathon set

ALL IS set for the 2004 Laguna Marathon on April 25 in Binan, Laguna.

A total of P118,600 in cash prizes will be at stake in the race which will start and end at the Pavilion Mall, according to chairman Louie Mangahis and president Romel (Jing) Anchoriz of the organizing San Pedro Team Unified Sports Association (SPTUSA).

Sponsoring the event are Nissan Motors Phil. marketing director Raymond Tribdino, Balfour Beatty Cleveland JV Philippines director Grahame Coles, Pepsi Cola Philippines regional manager Allan Ignacio-Sia, Pavilion Mall's engineer Justine Valerio and Sharmaine Lui Pio, Joey Sisik of Water Island Purified Drinking Water, San Pedro 4-Stroke Motors, Chowking and Jollibee.

For more details, text or call Mangahis at 813-1420 and 0916-6604727, SPTUSA treasurer/race director Abelardo (Abet) Alon-Alon at 0920-2862195, PRO Ompong Rances at 778-9518 and Councilor August Casacop at 0916-4452770.

# The many voices of Cate Blanchett

From page A31

ways interested in the differences so I'm not always trying to reduce a character down to my small world. I'm trying to understand the largesse of her experience.

**Does acting then help you understand yourself?**

For me, acting is not a tool for therapy. I think everyone has a different relationship to it. And I feel very grateful for the experience of going to drama school because I think that the messy adolescent catharsis that you go through in the early days when you start deciding to become an actor is pretty ugly and no one really wants to watch it. So I'm relieved this happened behind closed doors at drama school.

But for me, acting is very much a human exercise. It's expressing and unlocking what it means to be human, not what it means to be Cate Blanchett. I mean, I couldn't be less interested in that. I like to look out.

BLANCHETT with Barry Barnes in 'Veronica Guerin'

**In 1999, you told Vanity Fair, "I'm not opposed to what is commonly termed as ugly." Yet "The Missing" opens with your sitting on the toilet in an outhouse . . .**

(Jokingly) On the loo . . . on the fanny . . .

**How important would you say it is to eschew vanity and self-consciousness when approaching a project or a character?**

I think it's really important, actually. And that's why I don't watch (my films) more than once. Because I think that you can sort of be objective. But if you troll over your work, you just become incredibly focused on the externals. And I think that if you're interested in the internal, then the externals will take care of themselves.

**Given your very public profession, are you able to strive for a semblance of normality in your life?**

What's normal? I mean, I don't know what a normal life is. But I don't think about it very much. I don't think that I'm the center of the universe. Not all my friends are really working in the film industry—or that interested in the film industry. They're interested in what I'm doing because they're my friends, you know? The people in my intimate circle, it's not fair to drag them into it.

**And what about that elusive Oscar?**

No, no. I think, actually, if you ask most actors, it's not something you think about. I think it's definitely something the media focuses on. And if you think you can do anything about it, you're absolutely insane. It's lovely if that stuff happens, but it's certainly not why you get into it in the first place . . . I love what I'm doing. I'm really engaged by it, and I'm not involved in a project to get somewhere else. So it's very much you do each scene and see what happens.

**Your pregnancy was somewhat unexpected. But after a brief hitch with some of your projects, things seem to be well underway now.**

(Smiles) I'm so happy. Because of the pregnancy, I had to pull out of a film that I really, really wanted to do with Mike Nichols. And I'm devastated. I had to do it, I had to pull out. And I thought, I'm never gonna get over this. I sobbed for half an hour. And then I thought . . . (dramatic pause) "I'm pregnant!"

And that's life. It's just life. And so I'm not full of regret. I think if something bad happens, then something good will come along to replace it. I'm really fatalistic. And I think (one should) accept—oh, I'm gonna sound like I'm praying now—the things that you can actually have control over, and there are certain things that you have no control over. It makes for a much happier life.

# Rewarding learning . . .

From page A30

free for workshop sessions at the CCP. The workshop is our service to the developing Filipino playwright and is free of charge, but workshoppers should be focused, hardworking and determined to improve their craft. No "artistic tourists" or *ningas-cogon* types, please.

## 'Just Shoot Me'

THE NEW season of Studio 23's sitcom, "Just Shoot Me," starts telecasting tonight at 8:30 p.m. The comedy series stars **George Segal, Laura San Giacomo** and **David Spade.**

## 'LG Challenge'

AT 9 A.M. today on Channel 7, "Digital LG Challenge" pits students of La Salle Greenhills against the whiz kids of Sacred Heart Academy. **Pat Perez** directs.

## 'Light classics'

AT RIZAL Park at 6 p.m. today, "Concert at the Park" goes "Light Classics" with a performance by the Reborn Band (**Richard** and **Ryan Bacsafra, Helen Papeleras, Jonathan Suarez, Lloyd Lagrosa** and **Rolando Gajitos**).

## Jimmy Bondoc

ACOUSTIC singer **Jimmy Bondoc** performs at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant at Eastwood City Walk in Libis at 9 p.m. on March 24.

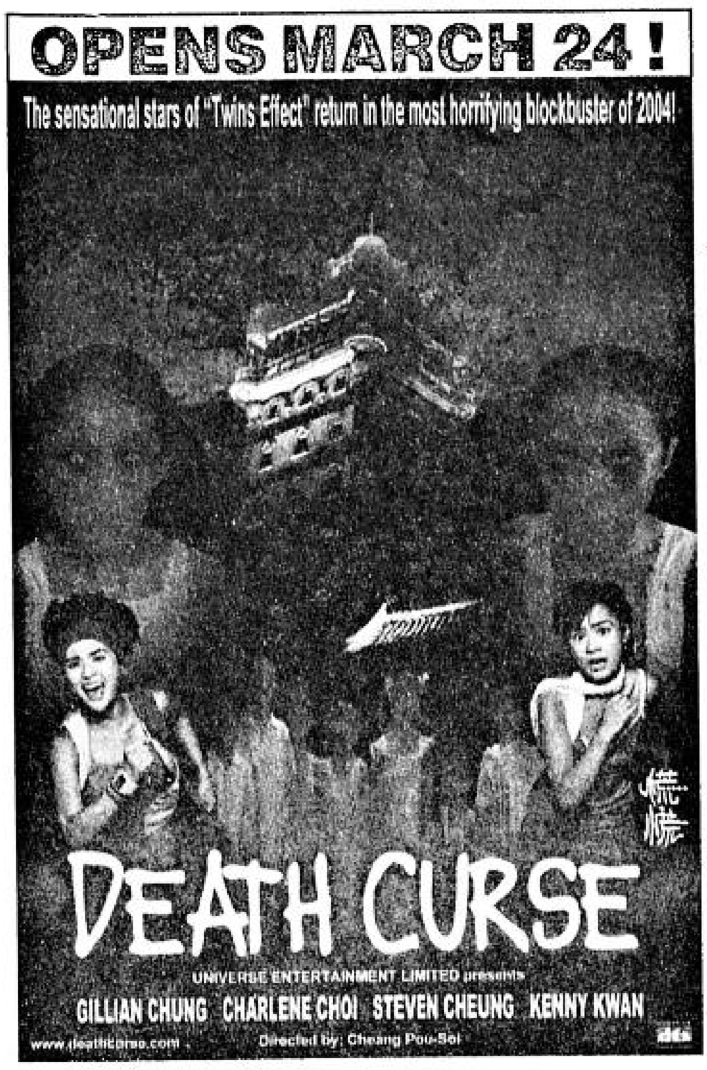
## Dakota Fanning

AFTER charming viewers in her previous starrers and on the "Taken" mini-series on TV, **Dakota Fanning** is co-starring in "Man on Fire" with Oscar winner **Denzel Washington.** In the film, he plays a former soldier who protects her when there's a rash of kidnappings in Mexico City.

## Heaven, hell

**PENELOPE** Cruz and **Victoria Abril** co-star in the film, "Don't Tempt Me," which has heaven and hell for its locations (no kidding). Heaven is a black and white kind of place and looks somewhat like France, while hell is comparatively more colorful.

Victoria and Penelope play "agents" of heaven and hell, respectively. They are both sent to earth to win over the soul of an injured boxer.—Let the games begin!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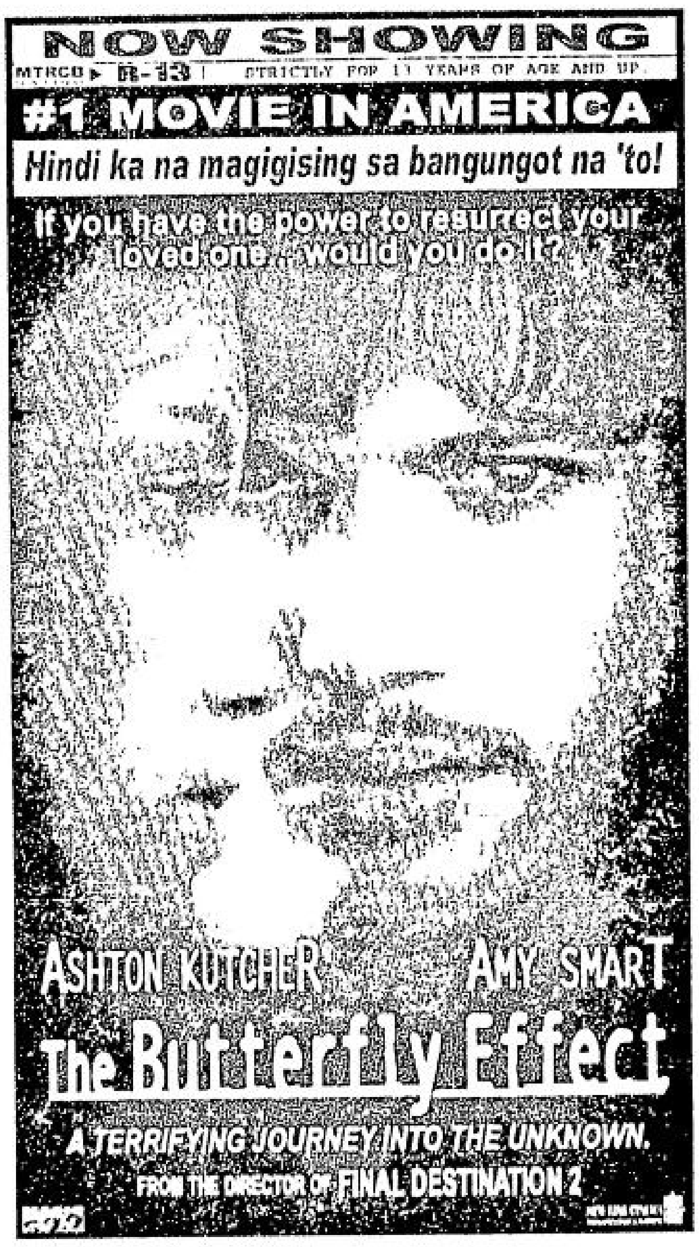
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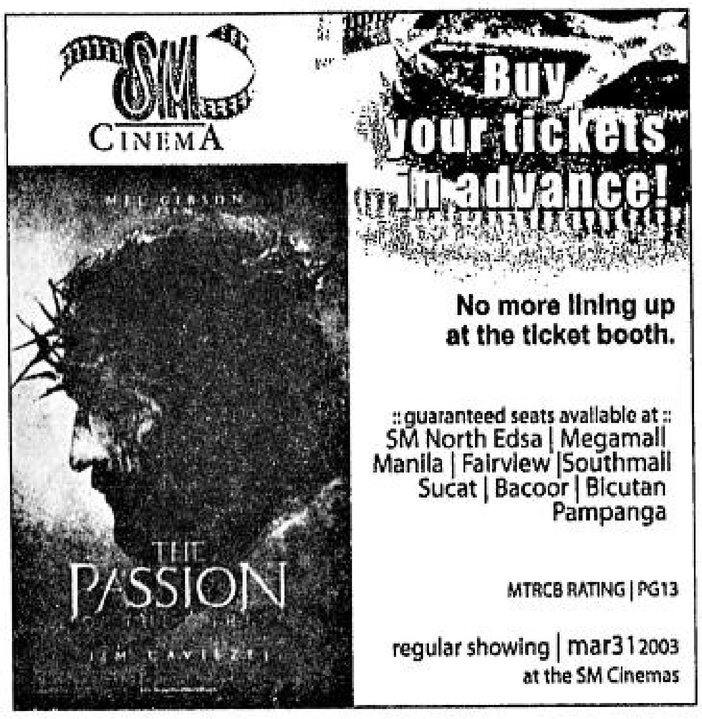
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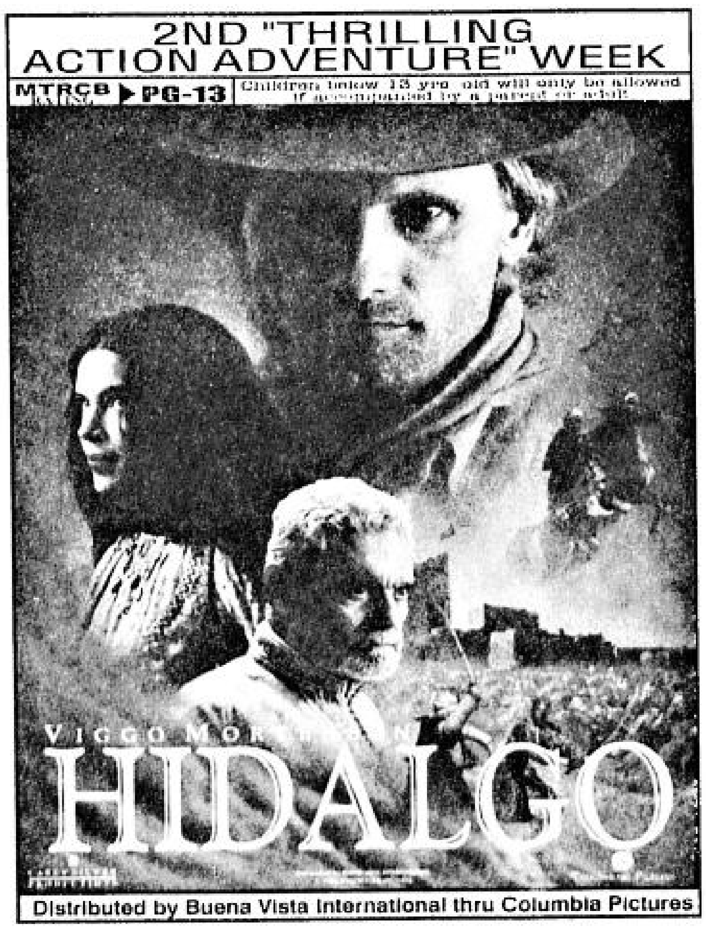
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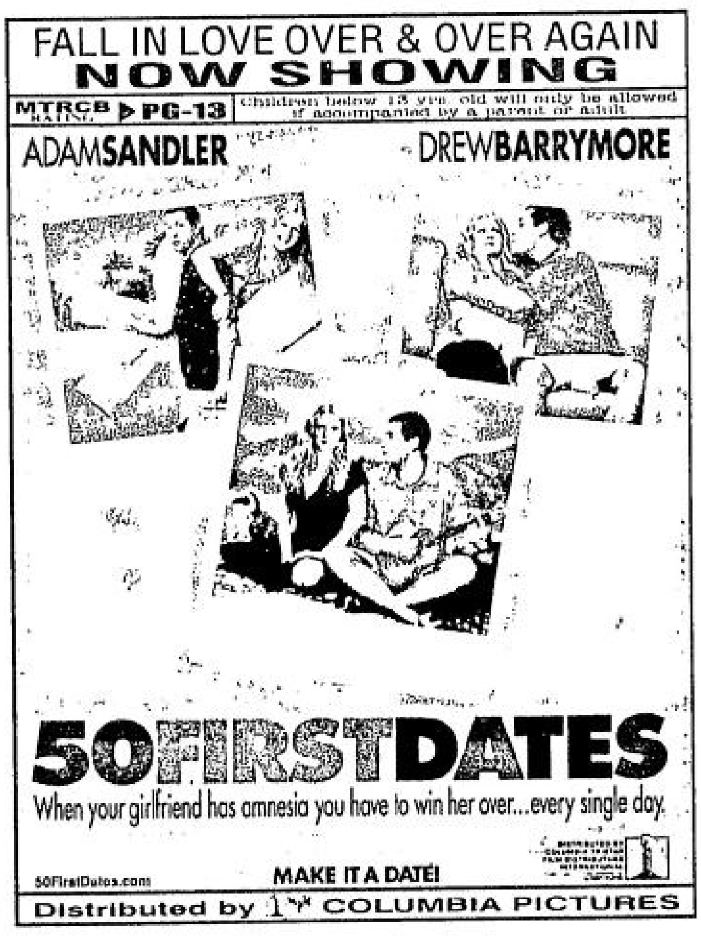
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# Rewarding learning experience for new playwrights

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

AMONG the workshops being offered this summer by the Cultural Center of the Philippines is our Playwright Development Initiative, which we hope talented developing scriptwriters will join. Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, from April 13 to May 8.

We conceptualized this development program for playwrights after we observed that many Filipino playwrights remain unpublished and unproduced. To us, this is a great waste of talent, and discourages gifted writers from developing their craft.

Many unproduced playwrights work pretty much on their own, so they don't get a sense of how it is to actualize their scripts with directors and actors, and how to communicate with the audience.

This is a major drawback because writers can learn a lot from their theatrical co-workers. A director can tell a writer where and when his script doesn't work, and how he can fix the problem scenes.

An actor will point out scenes or lines of dialogue that he can't believably perform or articulate. And members of the audience will react to a completed performance of the script, and share how it does or doesn't affect them.

Not much is being done here to enable our playwrights to learn by participating in this all-important process, so we have launched the Playwright Development Initiative.

We started last January by rehearsing and staging three one-act plays by **Rey Manalo, Jeanne Lim** and **Abigael Malonzo** at the Sta. Ana Arts Center.

Some of the actors who appeared in our productions donated their services and acted in the "laboratory" staging of the three plays, which were warmly received by the audience. Even better, the three developing playwrights said they learned a lot from the rehearsals with the actors and director (NUT), which they were required to attend.

The process wasn't an easy one for everyone involved, but the playwrights said it was a most rewarding learning experience, and that was sufficient satisfaction for all of us.

Thanks to the CCP, our Playwright Development Initiative has been expanded to a three-week workshop, which has been included in the center's summer offerings. We know from our experience last January that the process works, so we hope that developing playwrights will join the CCP course (first come, first served). Call the CCP's Performing Arts Division (832-2657) or **Andy Bais** (713-9323).

Requirements: Before March 6, the interested playwright should submit a one-act playscript written by him or her to: The Performing Arts Division, Upper Basement, CCP Main Building, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

The playwright should be serious-minded about developing his craft, and should clear his schedule to make himself

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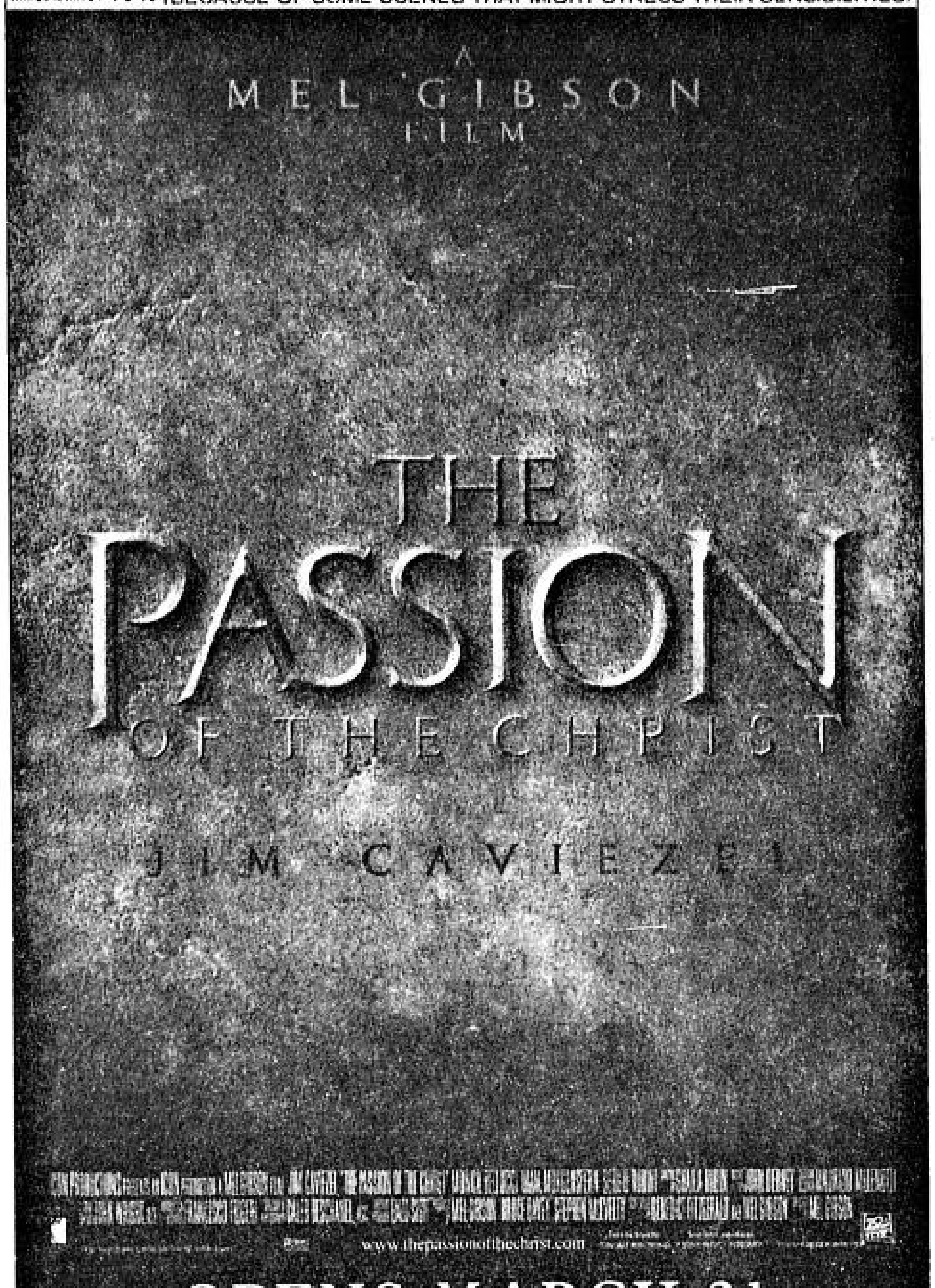

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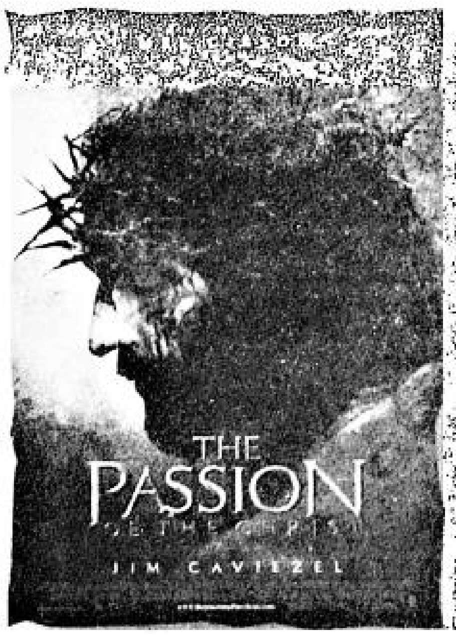
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Editor Louie C. Camino

# The many voices of Cate Blanchett

**By Alexis L. Loinaz**
*Contributor*

**INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE**

FOR MANY actresses, stardom is often purchased with a single currency: a distinct physical characteristic. For Bette Davis, it was the eyes. For Julia Roberts, the smile. For Jayne Mansfield, Botticelliesque curves.

For Cate Blanchett, that currency is her voice. Rousing, resonant and voluptuous, it assumes the gravitas of the most seasoned of Shakespeareans and the levity of the most flirtatious of muses. It has commandeered a kingdom in "Elizabeth," inspired hobbits in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and incited a moral crusade in "Veronica Guerin."

## Palpable intensity

But in person, it gently lulls one into a state of hypnosis. Sitting in a hotel suite in New York City to promote her new film, "The Missing," Blanchett surprisingly sounded nothing like the steel-willed monarch she played in "Elizabeth," a performance that brought the Australian actress worldwide acclaim in 1998. Nor did she sound like most of her other characters, for that matter. She spoke in a soft, mellifluous tone that bordered on a whisper, her Australian lilt buoying each supple syllable.

Yet every now and then, Blanchett's timbre dropped and deepened when she stressed a point. And for an ephemeral moment, one glimpsed a snippet of a Cate Blanchett performance—Galadriel in "The Fellowship of the Ring" The psychic mother in "The Gift"—that seethed with palpable intensity.

It is this sleight-of-hand ability to channel this intensity—first with her voice, then with her eyes, then with her body—that has catapulted Blanchett, 34, to the kind of spot on the A list usually reserved for the Streeps and the Fosters of cinema.

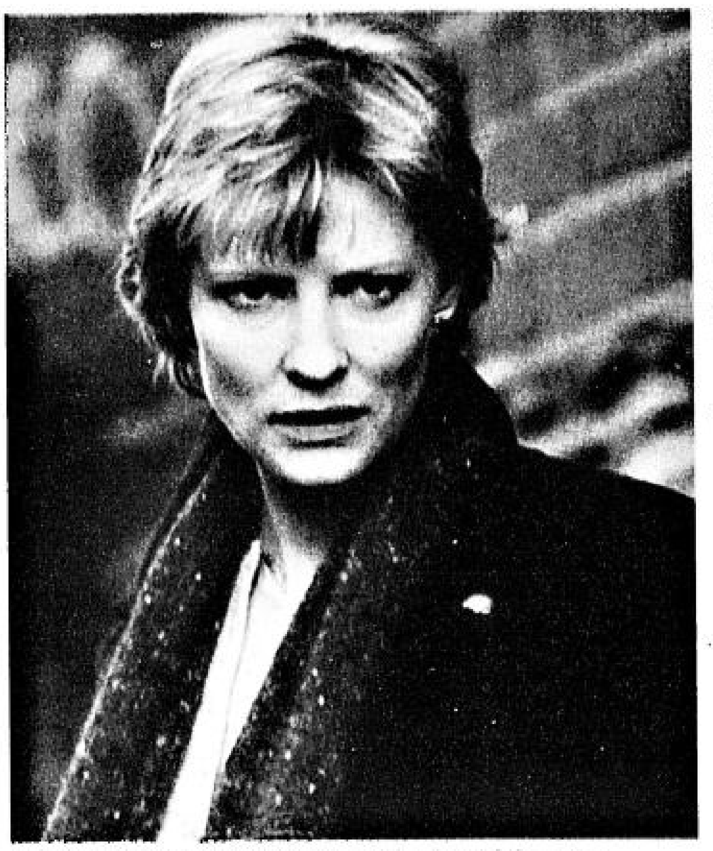
A graduate of Sydney's renowned National Institute of Dramatic Arts, Blanchett earned her acting stripes on the stage—first with her lauded performance in the Institute's staging of "Electra" and later for her work with the Sydney Theatre Company.

She made her feature-film debut in the 1997 World War II drama "Paradise Road," opposite Glenn Close and Frances McDormand. But it was in 1998 when Blanchett ignited dramatic fireworks with her tour-de-force turn as the title character in "Elizabeth." That role earned her an Oscar nomination, a Golden Globe award and an instant discipleship.

Since then, Blanchett has oscillated between films both high-profile ("The Talented Mr. Ripley") and esoteric ("Charlotte Gray"). Last year, she berthed two well-received, back-to-back performances that—up until January—had observers murmuring "Oscar": an Irish investigative journalist who was later murdered in "Veronica Guerin" and a frontier mother whose daughter is abducted in "The Missing."

In the latter film, Blanchett's character, a fierce medicine woman, teams up with her estranged father (played by Tommy Lee Jones) to save her daughter from being sold into slavery by a carnival of bandits. Blanchett spends considerable screen time wielding guns and riding on horseback. All told, it was the most physically demanding part the actress had taken.

## Mommy role



BLANCHETT: Motherhood, movies, celebrity and character

When Blanchett sat down to speak with reporters in New York, though, it was clear that she was preparing for her next role: that of mommy. Several months pregnant with her second child with Andrew Upton, a screenwriter and editor, she had to pull out of Mike Nichols' big-screen adaptation of the erotically charged stage play "Closer"; the role eventually went to Julia Roberts. She also planned to move back to Australia, where she said she'd like to remain for most of this year.

Dressed in a black-and-blue-striped bias-cut dress, fishnet stockings and silver-sequined Mary Jane pumps, Blanchett spoke casually about motherhood and movies, celebrity and character, and why—at the end of the day—acting isn't a tool for therapy.

**Your latest film, "The Missing," which is directed by Ron Howard, is quite unusual in that it's a Western with a female lead. What made you decide to strap on the riding boots for this one?**

I think primarily it was Ron. I met Ron, and he mentioned vaguely that he was thinking of doing this film that was set in the Southwest. He sent me the script, and I was intrigued by how spare it was and how, for me, it could so easily have become sentimental—that kind of father-daughter reparation story. But it was really not. It was really spare. She wasn't kind of the noble, pure white woman in most (Western) genres.

**But you weren't simply acting in this film. You were actually pushing yourself physically, with all the riding and shooting you had to do.**

I loved the riding. The riding was fantastic, was completely liberating. And also, when you need to pick up a gun, when you need to ride and all that stuff, the physical things completely need to be second nature. It's like the way a character moves or the way a character speaks. You don't want an audience to be constantly thinking about it. So I had to get there really early so I could get all of that (physical) stuff under my belt.

**What happened to the horse you rode in that film?**

(Laughs) My horse is back in New Mexico.

**Did you bond with it?**

I did. My husband was joking that he was gonna give it to me for my birthday. But there's no stable in London, really.

**What struck you most about the women of that time, the late 19th century?**

For women, it's a bit like the Second World War, really, in that the journey West and Southwest was such uncharted territory. And that the demands for survival were so present that women got the chance to do previously male-dominated things. I read a lot of books about female doctors—medicine women—just because there weren't enough people. And there were so many new, undiscovered diseases that a lot of females were being—I guess as much as they could be—educated to be doctors.

**Your character in this film is fictional. But you've gained attention by playing real people: Queen Elizabeth, Veronica Guerin and—in your next film, "The Aviator," directed by Martin Scorsese—Katharine Hepburn. What are the challenges of crafting a character that is based on a real person?**

It's very different, I think. When you're always trying to create a character—and even if you're making a mockumentary-style film—you have to accept that you're weaving a fantasy. With "Veronica Guerin," even though it's obviously based on the events of the last two years of her life, it's still a film. And you have to find the drama. You have to hone a story. Therefore you have to admit certain things and take poetic license with other things in order to shape a narrative.

And say, for example, Katharine Hepburn. Marty (Scorsese) was always saying to me that I was playing a character who happened to be called Katharine Hepburn, which is very liberating. Because when you're playing somebody who not only is iconic, but iconic in the same medium that you're attempting to represent them, you have to be insane to do that! I mean what a stupid idiot I am! (Laughs)

I do know, being an actor, that people are always watching a film to try and find out who you are. It's very different, who Katharine Hepburn was when she wasn't "The Creature," as she described herself. That's the public side of her job. Then "The Creature" went home. And then Katharine Hepburn had her life.

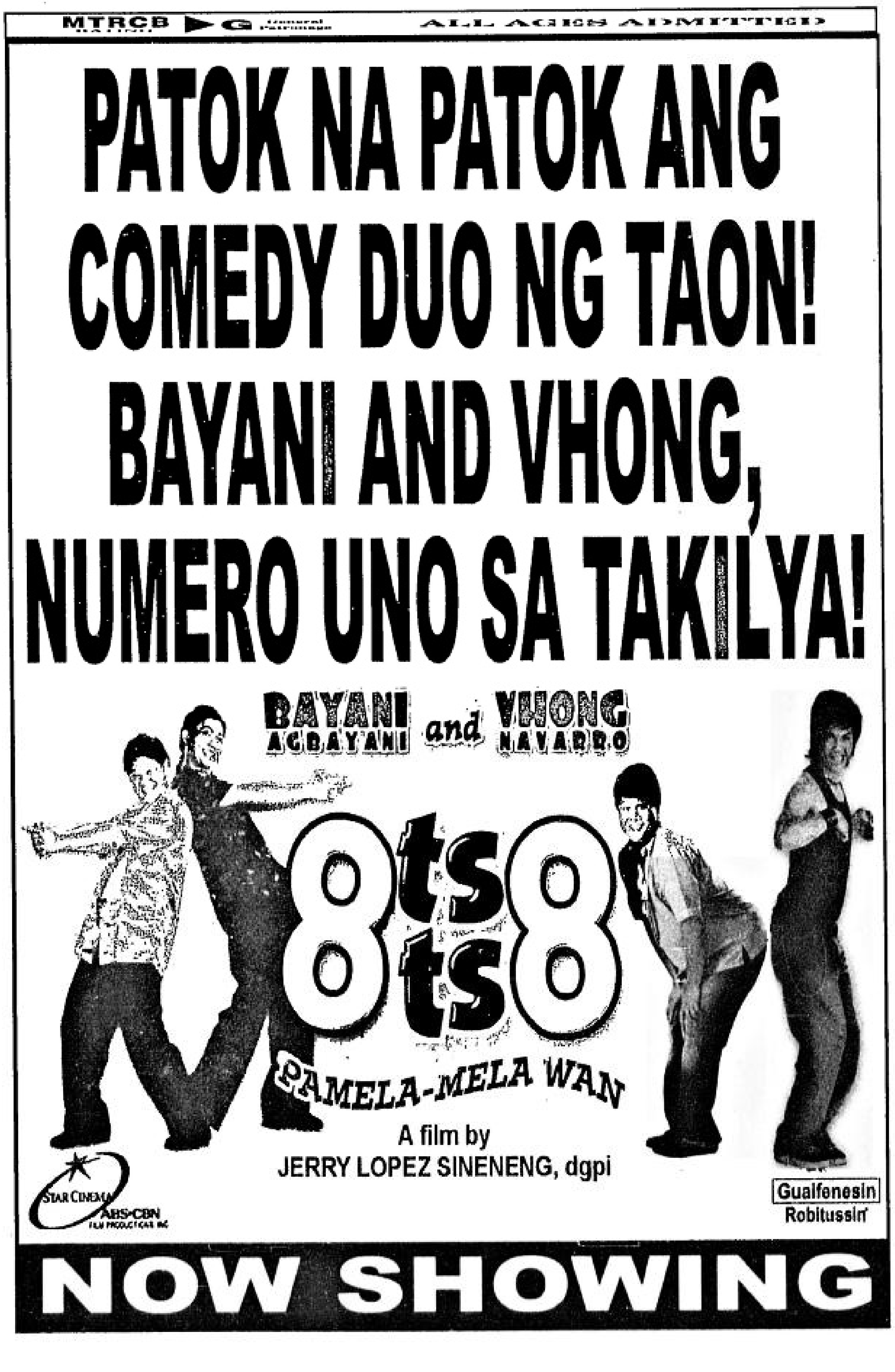
**Is that something you relate to as well: being a public creature who retreats back to her private life when she can?**

Yeah. I think, for me, my job isn't simply a job. It's a vocation. I think when you work in the arts, it's often hard to draw the line between where your life ends and where your work begins, because they're very much intertwined. But I think the job of an actor is quite different than what it was in the '40s. I think that with the proliferation of the media, you realize that there is a public side of it. And you can't pretend that there's (none of that).

**Do you consider yourself a Method actor, given that your craft seems so enmeshed with your personal life?**

No, I think for me the Method is very much a problem-solving thing. And very much something that one does at drama school in order to kind of awaken your emotions, really. I'm always interested in the differences. Because any similarities that are there between me and a character, any similarities that are there between my childhood experiences and hers, are innate and will be there in my subconscious. I don't need to access them. I'm al-

THE MANY/ A29



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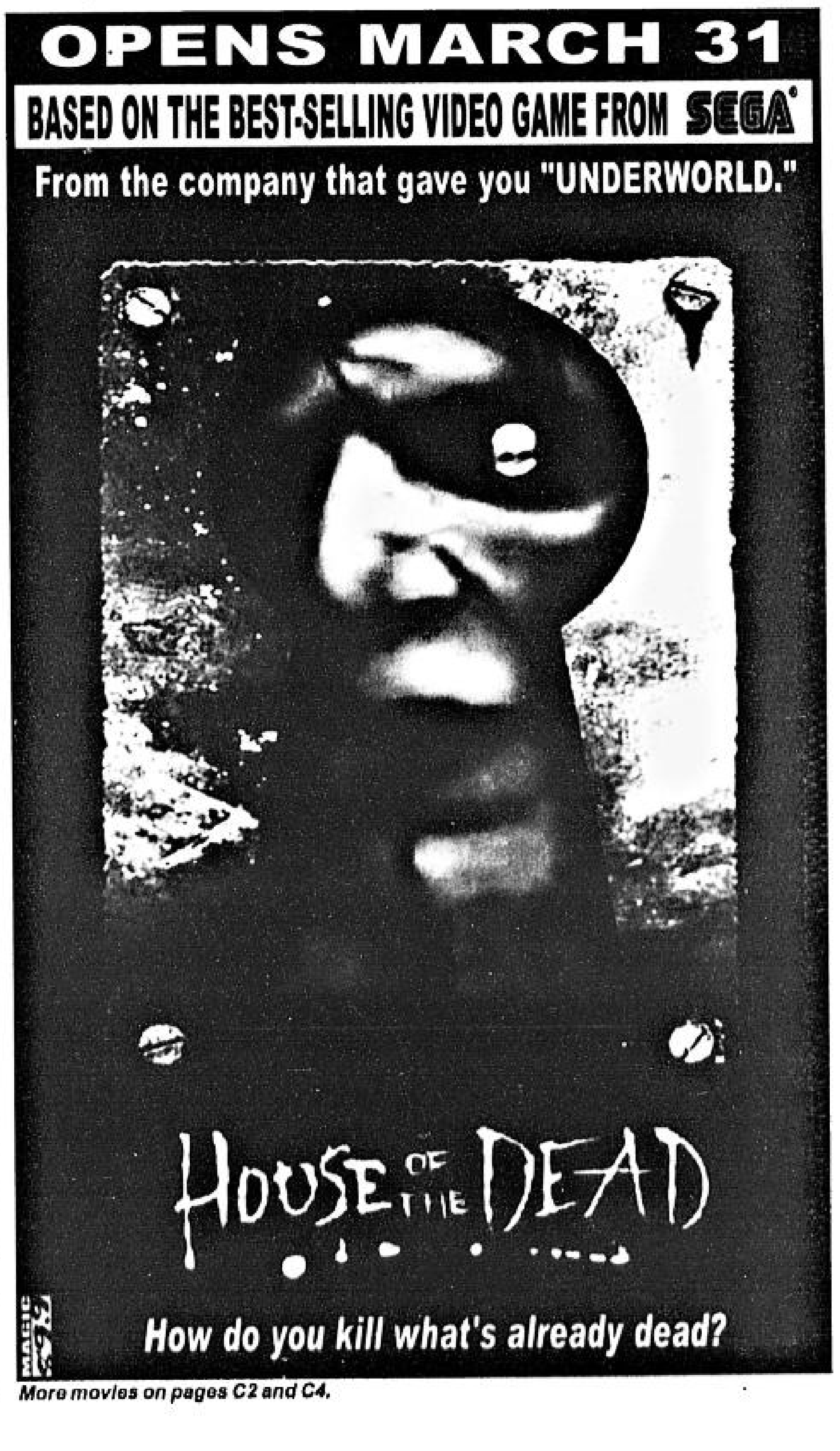

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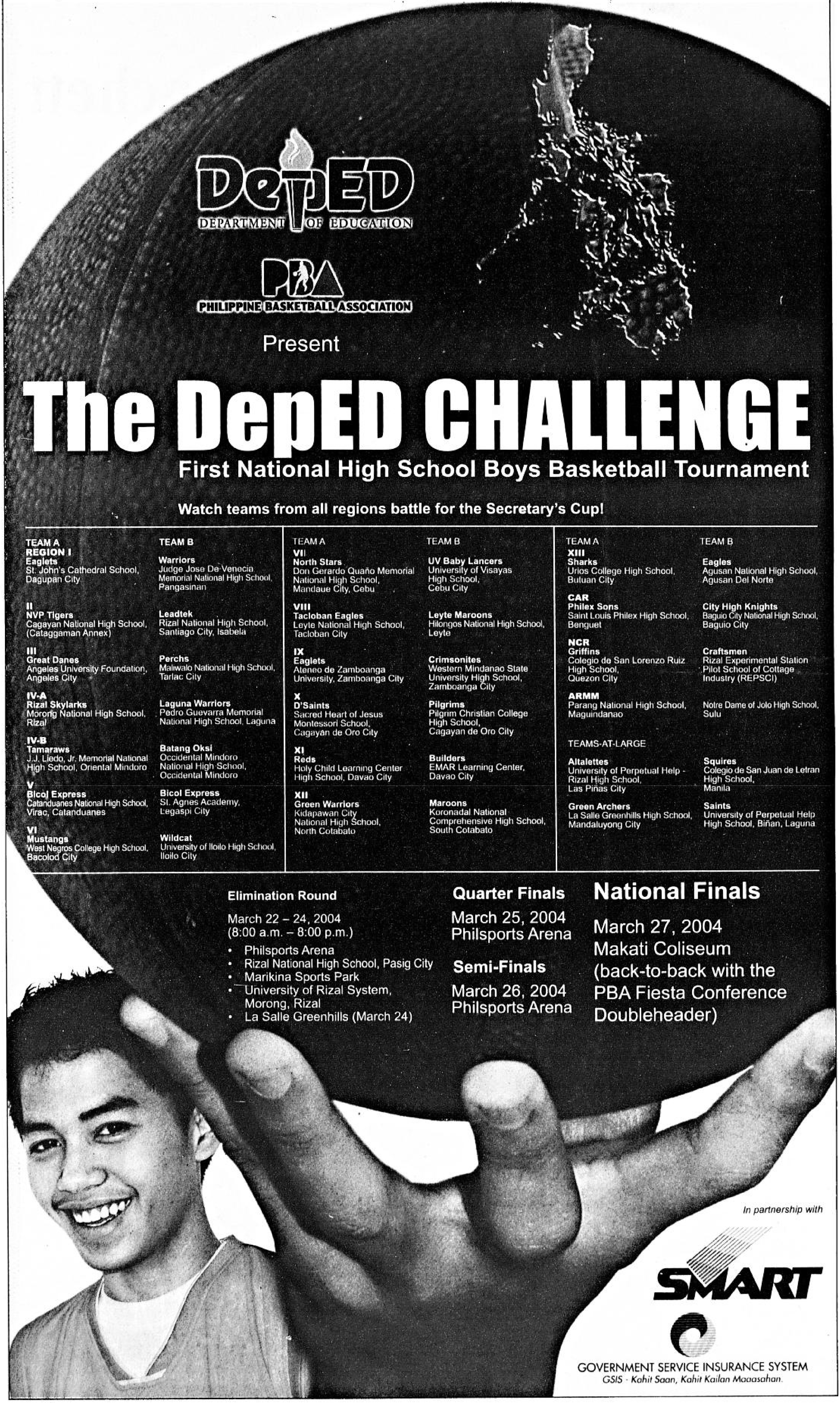

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### NOW BACK WITH DAD IN P5-B VENTURE

# Rich kid makes it away from father's shadow

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

MICHAEL L. Romero's dad, Reghis II, can afford to set up any business for his two sons.

And, most likely, these businesses would not affect Reghis' fortune built on construction, whether they made money or not.

## FIRST JOB

In his early years as an entrepreneur, Mikee relied on his dad's financial pool to start his ventures.

As a college student, he and nine classmates set up Kaleidoscope Entertainment which produced concerts.

The group brought in big stars like MC Hammer. But they lost money.

After getting his human resources degree from De La Salle University, Mikee was made operations manager of his father's construction project in Tarlac.

He was put in charge of the car pool and he would drive to Tarlac every day.

That was the first time Mikee, 34, worked for his dad. In contrast to Chinese-Filipino businessmen, Mikee says he and his brother, Nikki, were not exposed to the business and they were not told that they would run their father's enterprise one day.

But the young graduate always had the desire to strike out on his own.

After failing at concert production, he went into catfish propagation. Again, he borrowed money from his father. And again, he failed.

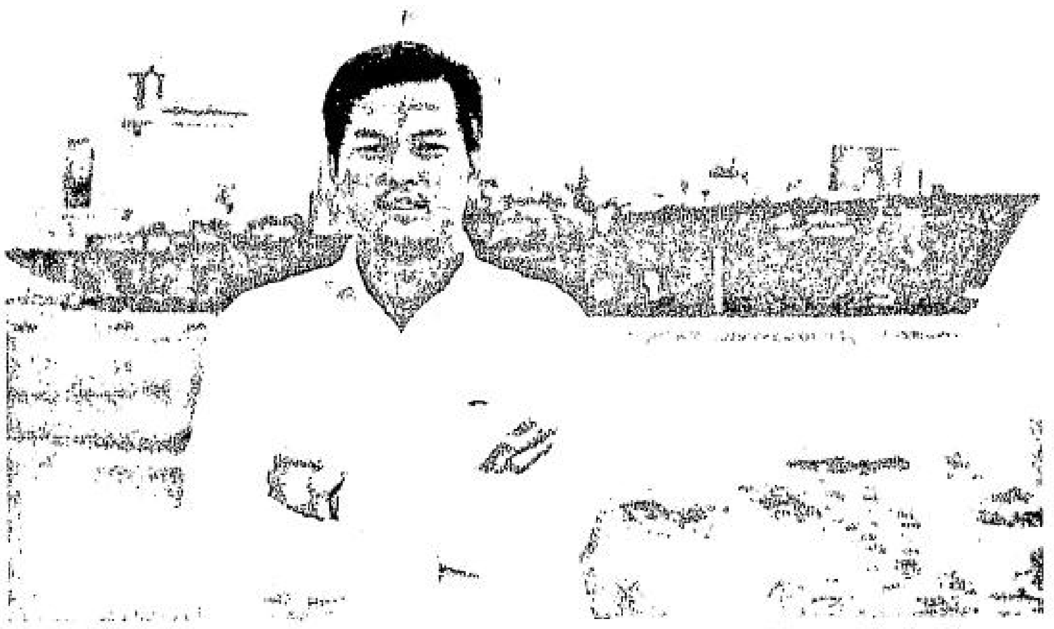
In 1991, Reghis bought a property that included a printing press. In 1993, he appointed Mikee to the publishing business.

The young graduate who admittedly did not know much about cash flows became too ambitious. After experiencing a boom, he immediately expanded. They had to close shop in 1994 with losses amounting to some P3 million.

The losses might have been loose change for his father, but Mikee took the failure seriously.

He decided to study to find out where he went wrong.

WITH dad Reghis during a trip to London



MICHAEL "Mikee" L. Romero is the eldest son of Reghis Romero II, who was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf a few years ago.

He pursued a masteral degree in business management at the Asian Institute of Management. He became so enamored of his studies that, today, he is finishing a doctoral degree in Business Administration. He even taught business at La Salle and Ateneo.

## CFO of R-II

Failure in the printing business notwithstanding, Reghis appointed Mikee the chief financial officer in 1994 of the R-II Group of Companies which, based on Mikee's resumé, has nine firms.

One of these, R-II Builders Inc., is a P3-billion firm that Romero claims is the largest construction firm in the country. It bagged a lot of government contracts during the Ramos administration.

Reghis was a virtual unknown in the '90s until he acquired The Manila Times in 1999 and his name emerged as one of the big but quiet players in the construction industry. But he eventually sold the Times.

## Going on his own

In 1999, Mikee felt he and his father had different business philosophies. He says he was actually more conservative than his dad. He decided to retire from R-II and strike out on his own.

This time, he was successful without his father's help. He set up Freightlinks.com.Pte. Ltd (Singapore). Mikee says he bought distressed but asset-rich firms in Singapore and Australia then sold the assets. He was even featured in the The Business Times of Singapore as one of the successful young Filipinos in the Lion City.

For capital, "I made use of other people's money in Singapore and Australia to do venture funding. I would buy shares of stock at a low price, and liquidate their assets at a premium. I got money from buying and selling everything," Mikee says.

In just two years, he earned enough to sustain a modest life for him and his family for life. He is married to Sheila, who owns Azzurro Restaurant, and they have three kids.

The second time he retired, he thought he would take things easy.

But his father had other plans for him.

In the late '90s, Reghis reclaimed an 11.5-ha area near Smokey Mountain which he planned to sell. In exchange for allowing him to do the reclamation project, the government asked R-II to clean up mountains of garbage. The firm constructed condominium-style buildings in the area to house the numerous residents who made money out of the garbage.

Mikee explains that Reghis' plan was to sell the port.

"But nobody wanted to buy so we decided to operate it," he says.

Mikee was made CEO tasked to head the Harbour Centre Port, a P5-billion port terminal that its proponents claim is at par with the best in the world.

## Facing a new challenge

After leading a relatively safe life and exposure to only professionals in the business, Mikee was in for a surprise in the ports business.

"When I took over, I felt I was in a corral. It was the Wild Wild West," he recalls.

The center, which began commercial operations in 1998, was losing P5 million a year.

"You had stevedores carrying *balisong* (fan knife). You put supervision but they will not follow. We had a lot of monkey operations," Mikee says to describe what he found when he joined the Harbour Centre.

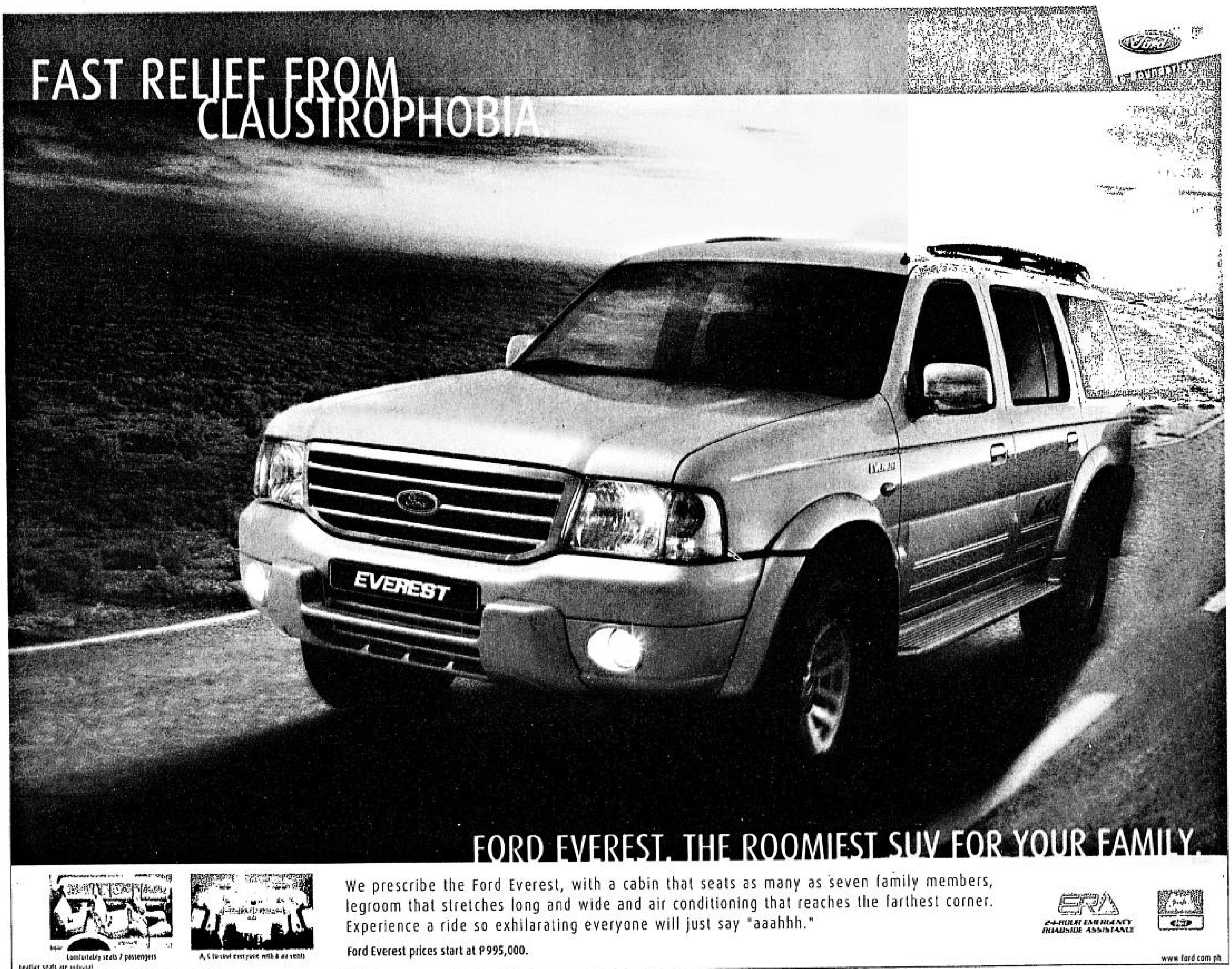
"Losses amounted to P5 million a year, but everybody was earning. Stealing was rampant," he adds.

## Cleaning up

The first order of the day was to clean house.

"I removed the guards, I put up

RICH/ B2



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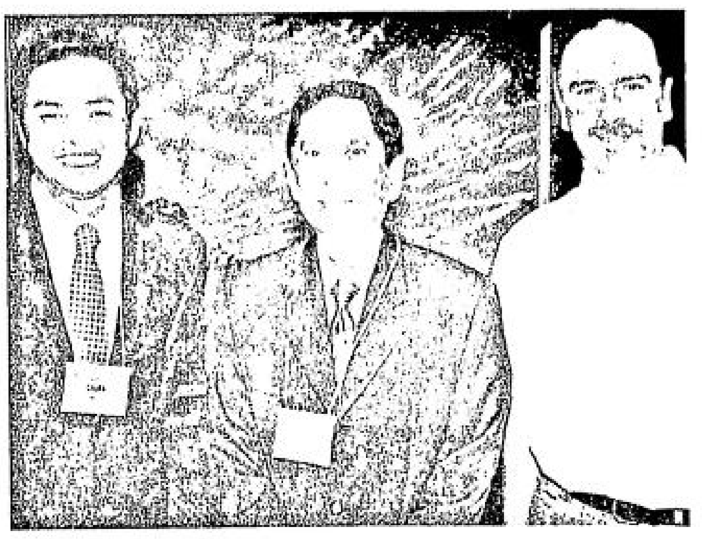
WITH wife Sheila and three kids

COLLEGE graduation with mom and only brother



WITH business executives during Thursday's launch of the Harbour.

# Rich kid makes it away from father's shadow

From page B1

walls, I asked the Western Police District to put an office here. I asked the police to strengthen security," he says.

Then he worked at professionalizing the place.

For better control, he retained only 50 regular employees then subcontracted the arrastre business.

Arrastre refers to the loading and unloading of merchandise on piers.

He also changed the management of the Centre. He admits he pirated some good people from the South Harbor.

"The change was dramatic," Mikee says. There were no more knife-wielding individuals, stealing was cut.

"The work here is challenging, but I want to improve and make changes," he states.

Mikee is now in the third phase making changes.

He claims that because of more efficient operations, the company can bring down the cost of transporting goods by 50 percent, resulting in lower prices for consumers.

He cites, for example, the Philippine Foremost Milling Co., which brings flour into the country. It reduced its cost of importation by half. The savings came from the shorter turnaround time.

Because the ships dock directly at the Centre, there is no need for anchorage operations. But in other ports, ships bringing in raw materials such as logs, steel bars, stop a certain distance from the port. Then barges are used to transport the shipment to land.

Unlike the traditional procedure where cargo is unloaded in the port area, transferred to loading areas then moved to a storage area prior to distribution, Harbour Centre has a 15-hectare back-up area, allowing for faster and more efficient cargo-handling services.

Cargoes are discharged and handled quickly.

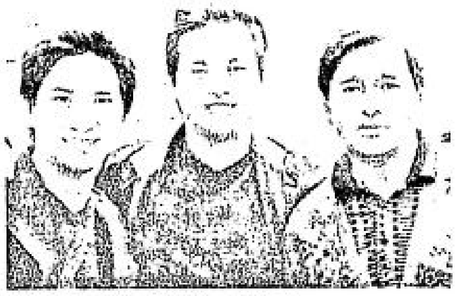
Mikee says the team researched port operations and found that pilferage from the anchorage system reached some P2 billion to P3 billion a year.

What happens is that some of the stevedores in cahoots with some people in barge operations drop the goods in the sea. They pick it up later then sell it somewhere else.

"It has become a way of life. I have spoken to many importers," he says. "By cutting down on the movement of cargoes and virtually eliminating pilferage and bureaucratic procedures, we have effectively raised productivity and cost efficiency of our clients. This means huge savings of up to 50 percent in terms of both time and money."

The Harbour Centre has also been applying for years to be allowed to bring in containerized shipments. After over five years, all that the Philippine Ports Authority could tell them is that they are studying the application.

DTI Secretary Cesar Purisima, Mikee and wife Sheila



WITH brother Nikki and dad

The International Container Terminal Services Inc. currently carries the bulk of this business.

The revenue spreads in containerized cargo are higher than in bulk cargo which Harbour Centre is allowed to process.

Mikee hopes to meet world-class standards in three years.

He says the company expects the port to get its ROI in five years if it gets the permit to work on containerized imports. Without the container business, they will have their ROI in 10 years.

His job now is far removed from the venture capital operations he left behind. But he is determined to rise to the challenge and compare with the best in the world.

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4. Come to the testing day on time. Examination starts at 12:30PM and ends at 5:00PM

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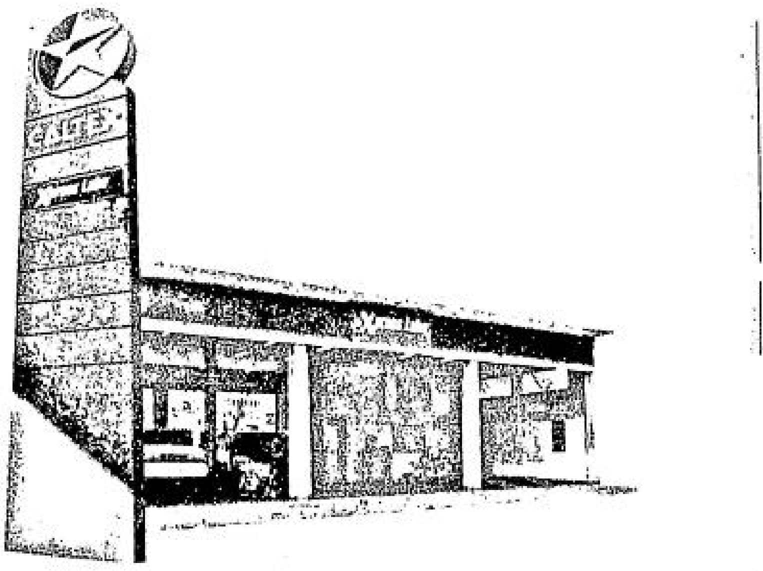

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# Employers' confab to focus on social partnership

HOW can employers build up a social consensus on a national-enhancing reform agenda to save and strengthen industries and jobs? How can a process on strengthening the ranks of employers and managers and sharing each other's formula for success be institutionalized?

These are some of the questions to be addressed during the upcoming 25th National Conference of Employers (NCE XXV) organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop).

To be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on April 21-22 this year, the conference highlights the theme, "Forging a Winning Partnership for Global Competitiveness," which zeroes in on creating and maintaining sustainable competitive advantages through social partnerships.

The NCE XXV organizing committee is chaired by Ecop vice president Feliciano L. Torres and co-chaired by Fe T. Palileo, Ecop governor and treasurer, and Ecop vice president Aniano G. Bagabaldo.

According to Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano, intense competition in the world's marketplace has compelled many countries to spark creativity, quality, innovation and excellence. But as their rivals embarked on similar programs, the bar of competition has been raised even higher.

Soriano pointed out that companies both here and abroad employed social partnerships as their strategy to create their own competitive advantage. They and their partners managed activities across the value chain, leveraging on each other's resources, he added.

Torres noted that the conference resolutions will be presented to Her Excellency, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is expected to deliver one of her last major policy pronouncements before the national elections.

# Fund raisers to renew ties in gab

STORIES from the trenches will be told and retold at the First Philippine Fund Raising Congress at the AIM Conference Center on March 30 and 31.

On these dates, members of the NGO and fund raising communities will come together for two days of networking, strengthening or renewing of ties and sharing stories. Above all, the congress is an opportunity for learning-both about the art and science of fund raising, and generating support for socioeconomic projects.

The congress organizers have assembled an outstanding lineup of speakers for the first ever national conference on fund raising, which has already attracted some 200 participants from all over the Philippines.

The Philippines' own Alternative Nobel Prize awardee, Nicanor Perlas, will deliver the keynote speech on maintaining the financial viability of non-government organizations.

Perlas received the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2003 for "laying the theoretical and practical basis for creating a better world." In demand as a resource person and keynote speaker, Perlas has shared his expertise and insights in more than 60 global conferences and 90 national conferences.

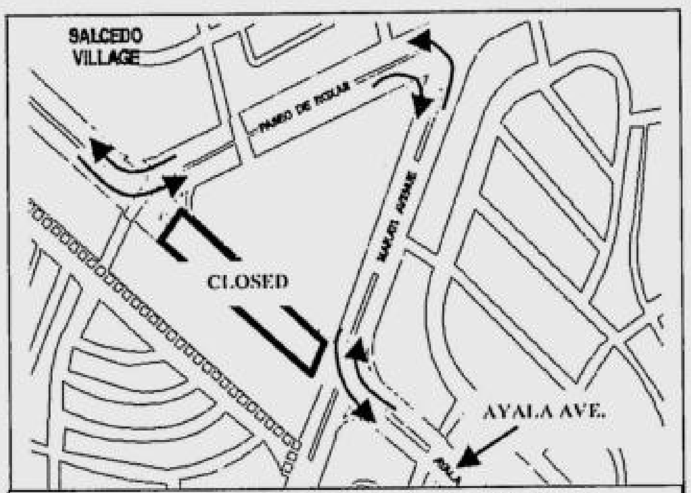
One of the congress highlights will be an insightful discussion of the results of Venture for Fund Raising's most recent survey on attitudes toward giving, to be presented by Jasen Ko. The complete results of the survey, which yielded some surprising facts about the who's, why's and wherefores of Filipino acts of charity, will be shared exclusively with congress participants.

Rory Tolentino, executive director of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC) and Venture for Fund Raising executive director Marianne Quebral will discuss the current state of fund raising in the country and how Philippine non-profits fit in with regional giving trends.

Other presenters include Tony Meloto, executive director of Gawad Kalinga, who will introduce congress participants to strategies on tapping new funding sources.

Alay sa Kawal president Ramon Pedrosa will discuss how to bring your cause to the boardrooms of corporate Philippines.

Individuals and groups interested to take part in the biggest gathering may call Venture for Fund Raising at (02) 634 8889-90 or email info@venture-asia.org.



## TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING ADVISORY

Both sides of Ayala Avenue between Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas will be closed to all vehicular traffic from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M on March 23, 2004 to give way to the 170th anniversary celebration of Ayala Corporation. Vehicular traffic will be re-routed as follows:

1. Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) coming from EDSA going toward Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia) will turn right at Makati Avenue, turn left at Paseo de Roxas and turn right to Ayala Avenue.
2. All other vehicles may turn left at Makati Avenue going toward Pasay Road or turn right going toward Paseo de Roxas.
3. PUVs coming from Buendia going toward EDSA will turn left at Paseo de Roxas, turn right at Makati Avenue and turn left at Ayala Avenue.
4. All other vehicles from Buendia may turn right at Paseo de Roxas going toward Pasay Road or turn left going toward Makati Avenue.

Please note that signboards with this same information are also posted along Ayala Avenue.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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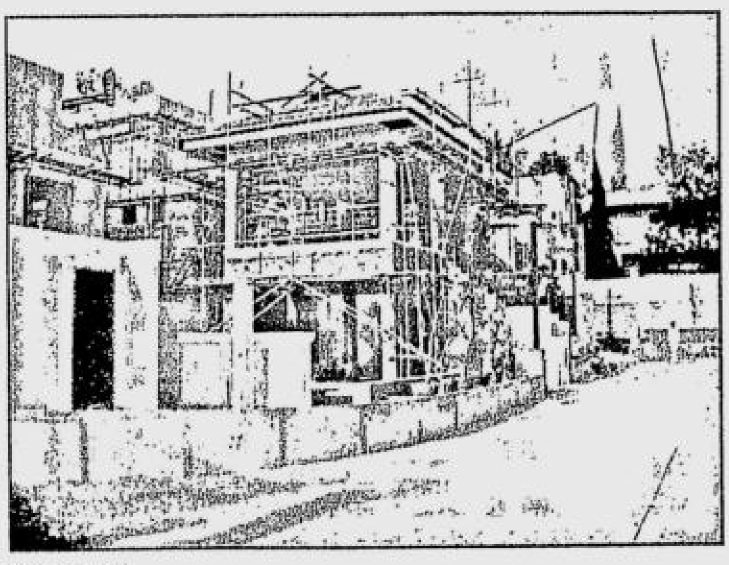
PO Box # 42, Taguig Post Office, Taguig, M.M.
E-mail address: bcda@bcda.gov.ph
www.bcda.gov.ph

# RCBC-British venture bares new construction technology

A revolutionary construction methodology that may soon redefine high-end housing is being introduced in the Philippines by a joint undertaking among Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), a British home builder and a premier local contractor.

Recently, RCBC entered into an agreement with Sterling Development Corp. for the latter to build houses for buyers of its lot at the Greenmeadows III Subdivision called the Enclave. RCBC acts as the depository and disbursement bank while Sterling builds the houses in accordance with the restrictions prescribed by Ortigas Land, the developer of the subdivision, and in accordance with duly issued licenses and permits by the City Government.

RCBC has also entered into an agreement with New Kanlaon Construction Corp., a respected contractor recently awarded the construction of all the land development and buildings of the S&R/ Price Smart chain of stores under strict international standards as well as various commercial establishments at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. The company shall be responsible for all the roads and drainages inside the compound including all underground electrical, communication, and water facilities using international standards of quality as well.



For the first time, Sterling Development Corp. is introducing in the Philippines a very fast, high-quality and cost-efficient construction method that would revolutionize high-end housing. As Mark Taylor of Sterling puts it, "Beauty is not only skin deep."

"This describes both the way they and New Kanlaon do their construction. Beauty both inside and out, unlike other contractors who rely on the finished outside appearance to hide defects inside," concurs Romeo J. Pulido, Jr., head of Projects & Joint Ventures of RCBC who spearheaded the negotiations.

The strength of the monolithic, load bearing walls are at an average of 3000 psi versus 750 psi of the best hollow blocks available. The walls are fire-resistant, well-insulated, termite-proof and are absolutely free of cracks normally seen in conventional construction. The structural integrity of the buildings have been confirmed by DCCD, one of the country's leading engineering and design firms.

Engr. Argee Ceazar Militante, project management officer of RCBC, predicts this construction methodology will soon replace the conventional CHB (concrete hollow block) system not only because of its structural soundness and aesthetic qualities but because of its speed and cost efficiency as well.

RMDA, one of the more prestigious architectural design firms in the country has been commissioned to do a Modern Asian Design concept for the buyers of RCBC's acquired asset. Complementing this with charming landscapes and streetscapes is DQA Environmental Design.

RCBC is relying on the expertise of T2W Consulting, who has done project management for large residential and infrastructure developments in the United States as well as in the Philippines, including the billion-dollar San Roque dam project, to ensure that the buyers get only the best quality under international standards.

RCBC Savings, on the other hand, provides consumer financing at competitive rates with a limited offer of special discounts afforded those who are approved of a housing loan.

This is all consistent with RCBC's philosophy of total service to its clients, says RCBC first vice president Claro L. Contreras. "We are also proud to have been the first bank to support the introduction of this revolutionary construction methodology that would provide the best value for money housing not only for affluent Filipinos but soon for middle income and low cost housing buyers as well."

British investor Mark Taylor has expressed his gratitude to QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte, the city council, the Greenmeadows III Homeowners Association, Ortigas Land, and the parish priest, Monsignor Mora, for their support. "I am investing millions of pesos into the country for a system that would soon provide high-quality, affordable homes for Filipinos and Quezon City has been the ideal place for me to showcase my work. Even barangay chairman Lehner V. Martires has been very supportive by providing garbage disposal facilities, manpower and traffic management at the site."

Sterling Development Corp. is opening its doors for the public to see and compare the quality and efficiency of its construction methodology at 4 pm on March 27, 2004, Saturday, at the Enclave, Greenmeadows III, beside Christ the King Church.

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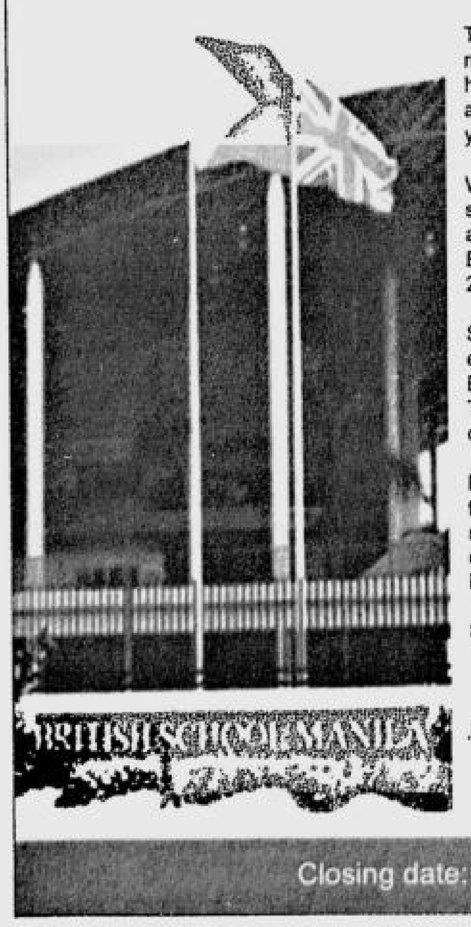


# Toilet business: More civic duty than profit

**By Frank Cimatu**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**PINOY ENTREPRENEUR**

BAGUIO CITY—In Singapore, stories about toilets—especially the clean ones—make it to the front page. In the Philippines, a front page makes a toilet.

Another joke has it that you don't see a toilet in the Philippines. You smell them.

But seriously, the government is trying to change the image of Philippine public toilets with the Department of Tourism even coming up with the Toilet Recognition of the Year Awards or Troy Awards.

One businessman who heeded the call was Ruben Pinlac, who left Baguio City in 1974 for the United States. Pinlac returned to Baguio in 2001, expecting to smell the pine trees when he was climbing up Kennon Road. What he smelled were the strong gas fumes and odor from the toilets in Burnham Park, instead.

But he came as the Baguio City government was trying to privatize the operations of the 19 public toilets in Burnham Park, public market and other tourist spots in the city.

Pinlac called on his classmates at the Saint Louis Boys' High School Class 1970 and was able to persuade Rupert Alvar as co-financier and banker Roy Maglanoc as the operations manager.

With a P10-million capital base intended to manage the city's public toilets, the batchmates called themselves the R&R Management Inc.

"We just added our names," Pinlac says, not knowing that R&R also means "rest and recreation."

Little did they know that they were the only interested party during the contract bidding in August 2001.

The grateful city government expedited the contract so that the toilets could be the domain of the R&R Management.

Their contract was to manage the 19 public toilets, which included those in Mines View and Wright parks, for the next 15 years.

They would have to pay the city government P30,000 for rent even as they can only charge a minimal fee of P3 for urinating and P5 for defecating. The firm also supplies napkins, disinfectant, soaps and other toiletries for a fee.

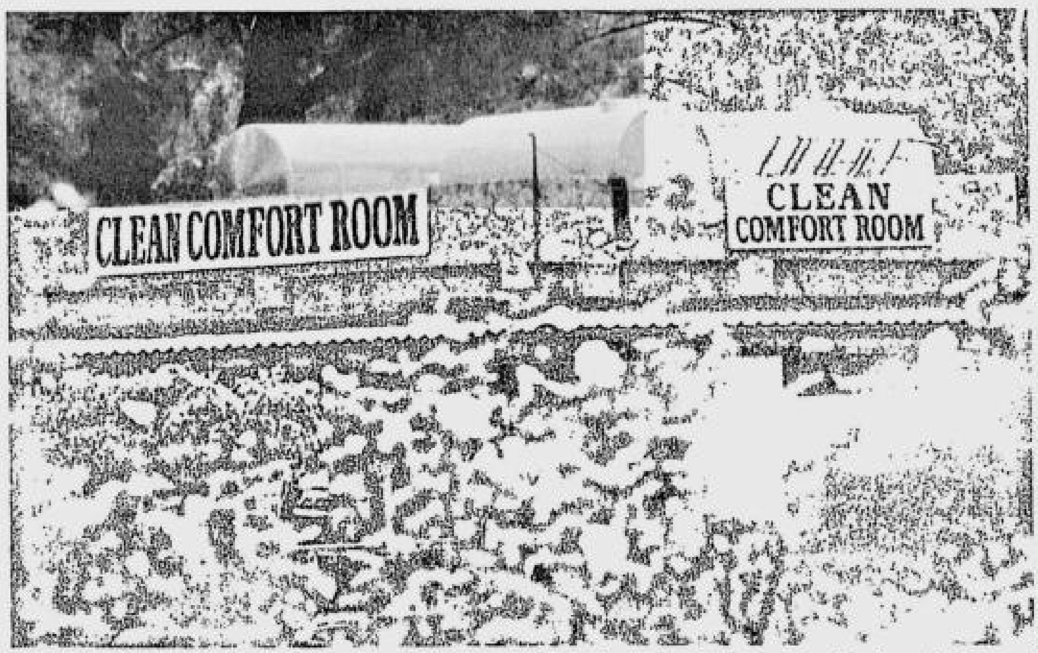
"We thought we just (have to) manage the toilets. We didn't know that we would have to overhaul the whole thing," Maglanoc says.

"As it turned out, it was more civic duty than profit for us," says Pinlac.

For example, the public toilet at Burnham Park's skating rink had to be expanded and the toilet floor had to be elevated for P200,000.

Other toilets had to be overhauled with additional septic tanks and expanded to include shower stalls and more bowls and sinks.

After less than four years, R&R is now managing 22 public toilets and some of them are now qualified for the DOT's Troy Awards.



EV ESPIRITU

THERE is now a clean place in Burnham Park, Baguio City, where people can respond to the call of nature.

More important for Maglanoc, the clean toilets helped change the "toilet habits" of tourists and residents alike.

During the recent Baguio Flower Festival, the longest lines formed not towards the refreshment kiosks and shawarma stands but towards the 13 public toilets in the city's central business district.

"When I last came here five years ago, the toilets were so dirty it would be better to just do it at the flowerbeds. Now the toilets are clean and you can even shower in the stalls," says Efren Velasquez, a tourist from Bulacan.

"There are now few people urinating and defecating among the bushes and trees," notes Manang Fely, a street sweeper.

To manage toilets, you should always ensure cleanliness, Pinlac says.

R&R hired 60 employees to manage the restrooms and added 40 more during the busy months of February to June. These workers work on two shifts.

But it rejected plans to have these toilets open 24 hours everyday.

"Believe me, at midnight and it's very cold, if you really want to go you wouldn't ask for the nearest public toilet," Maglanoc says.

The employees are not only tasked with cleaning the restrooms but giving tourists information.

Maglanoc says they decided not to scrimp on such things as quality of tiles, disinfectant and water. They installed large water tanks in all their toilets instead of the usual *tabo* (dipper) per person in most bus depots and other pay toilets in the country.

R&R also installed its own private water lines, tapping directly into the lines of the Baguio Water District. In fact, some of the residents, during severe water rationing in their areas, would shower in some of the selected public toilets.

Maglanoc says the idea to install shower stalls came from the tourist themselves. Cold shower costs P20 a person while for the shivering souls, hot water is sold at P5 a pail.

Maglanoc says they installed high-quality squat toilets after making their own toilet observation tours to Japan and Singapore.

Although squat toilets are frowned upon as "provincial," Maglanoc says this type is most appropriate for public use because there is no contact with the previous occupants.

R&R already received four awards for its toilets from the regional tourism office even before the DOT came out with its Troy Awards.

As for the success of the "toilet business," Maglanoc was modest, saying they can realize their initial capital after 10 years of operation.

It helped that R&R is just a side business for its members. Pinlac recalls selling pots and pans with actor Eddie Guttierez until he managed his own business in the United States.

Maglanoc was a banker for Manilabank before working in Saudi Arabia for the Banque Indosuez.

He returned to Baguio to watch over the schooling of his children and put up his own restaurant.

For its civic side, R&R has planted 6,000 pine seedlings beside its toilets to approximate the piney scent Pinlac was accustomed to 30 years ago.

R&R says it would not stop until it achieved its target of a million pine trees.

# *Mom continues son's orchid legacy*

**By Salvador I. Sibayan**
*Contributor, UP ISSI*

THE EVENING of Jan. 23, 2001 saw various groups putting their finishing touches to their landscape exhibits for the Annual Horticulture Show at the Manila Seedling Bank. Plant hobbyists were also bringing their prized collections to compete in various categories.

Eric Purificacion, an orchid hobbyist turned entrpreneur, should have also been there with his choice plants. Other exhibitors would swear later that they saw him around the area. But they couldn't have. Eric met a fatal accident the night before as his car veered from the South Superhighway and crashed into a tree.

Eric was 34. At that age, he was providing the technical expertise and had started implementing expansion plans for Purificacion Orchids which he managed with his mother, Cora, in Alfonso, Cavite.

Eric's interest in orchids started as an 11-year-old who accompanied his mom to regular forays at Farmer's Market to buy plants. Cora had a passion for orchids, and this rubbed off on the young boy. Before long, the beautiful flowers took over the surroundings of their Quezon City home. The Purificacions had to raise their fence to prevent theft. That was the downside. And the upside? Passers-by would drop in and insist on buying some of the orchids.

That encouraged them to consider going into commercial growing. When they decided to do so, Cora, a CPA by profession, took a three-day seminar on cut flowers at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC). Then she attended a one-week course on orchid growing at UP Los Baños. Eric later took the same short course at Los Baños—after shifting from engineering to horticulture. To mass propagate orchids, Eric set up a laboratory in what used to be their maid's quarters.

In 1986, the Purificacions bought a piece of land some five minutes' drive from their home. This became their first commercial garden.

With increased volume, the next step was to go beyond mere drop-in customers. Mother and son began making deliveries to UP Los Baños. In 1988 they set up a 4-square-meter outlet at SM City. Two years later, they would have a bigger one at the Manila Seedling Bank.

All the while, Cora maintains, *"Pumapasok lang kami sa kaya namin."* In other words, their slow and gradual expansion would be dictated by what they could handle and pay for based on internally generated funds. Suppliers were to be paid on or before their due dates. Only healthy plants without blemishes were sold to customers. These early guideposts would help establish the reputation of Purificacion Orchids at both ends of the business, from material sourcing to marketing. These also led to an array of prizewinners in plant shows held at various times of the year.

With operations going smoothly, Eric left for the University of Hawaii to study tissue culture of orchids and horticultural plants. Upon his return, he replaced the makeshift lab with a bigger one in Quezon City and boosted production in a larger area in Alfonso, Cavite. He also diversified into the propagation of exotic ornamentals like Guzmanias, Vrieseas, Neoregelias, and cacti and succulents.

What followed was a period of expansion for Purificacion Orchids. New outlets were opened at SM Fairview, Megamall, Las Piñas, Sta. Mesa and San Fernando, Pampanga. However, the last three had to be eventually closed. Cora gave these outlets a couple of years to turn a profit, but this did not happen. Cora knew how to cut her losses.

Anna, Cora's other child, joined the business at this time. She took care of marketing even as Eric continued to handle technical aspects.

The business was at its peak at the time of Eric's passing. Disconsolate over the loss of a son and business partner, Cora retreated to the confines of Alfonso for a good part of two years.

It was also her passion for orchids that helped Cora bounce back. Gradually, she became more and more active in the Philippine Orchid Society and other plant organizations. "That was my therapy," Cora says. At the same time, Cora has put her retirement on hold as she gradually passes on the baton to Anna. It has become a bigger baton in the absence of Eric.

As Purificacion Orchid primes itself for the export market, www.purificacionorchids.com will be Cora's legacy to plant aficionados. It will also be Eric's.

*(Check out the UP ISSI's training, research and publications services through Tel. 9287076 to 79 or E-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph. Or browse its website at www.up.edu.ph./~issi.)*

Ayala

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual meeting of stockholders of **AYALA CORPORATION** will be held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City, on **Friday, 26 March 2004** at **9:00 A.M.** with the following

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report
4. New Business
    4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee adopted during the preceding year in the ordinary course of of business.
    4.2 Ratification of the Resolution of the Board of Directors adopted on 20 January 2004 declaring a 20% Stock Dividend.
5. Election of Directors (including the Independent Director)
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing of their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on 9 February 2004 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. As per By-laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from 9 to 16 February 2004, inclusive. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring the enclosed Stockholders' Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m.

Makati City, 04 February 2004.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MERCEDITA S. NOLLEDO
Senior Managing Director
& Corporate Secretary

# Banking on personalized items

**By Sharon Wendy A. Robas**

THE FILIPINOS' penchant for personalized products has resulted in an increase in the number of stores that offer customized items to suit the individual taste of customers. Laserati is one such store.

It opened its first outlet at the SM Megamall in December 2003. As its name implies, Laserati specializes in the laser engraving of pictures and texts on different items and accessories.

Mae Abasolo, marketing manager of Laserati, shares that the firm's research team did an extensive market study before the branch was put up. The team came up with a list of products that it believed would sell well in the market.

These include laser engravings on wood, mugs, wine and shot glasses and anodized aluminum.

Mae shares that laser-engraved wood products turned out to be their specialty. These items sold like hotcakes when they opened in time for the Christmas season last year. Wooden plaques/picture frames and keychains are the most saleable items, says Mae.

Other laser-engraved wood products available at Laserati are clocks, oval and rectangular plaques, penholders, tissue and jewelry boxes, cardholders and desk nameplates.

Barely three months since it opened, Laserati has gained a strong following. Mae attributes this to finding the right location and having the right products.

She has nothing to complain about the market's response.

"It's probably because Filipinos like pictures a lot," says Mae, adding that individual and corporate clients are their target markets.

Laser engraving is done in three phases: scanning, editing and printing. Pictures and images (in high resolution) are scanned and edited by a graphic artist who will then lay out the image and laser print them on the material the customer has chosen.

LASERATI employee prints images on the chosen material.

"Because we use laser, printing is fast and precise," relates Mae.

It is also an ideal medium for making fine engravings of images and small company logos.

"Our products are heat-carved, so images are detailed. And because laser markings are permanent, they won't fade," Mae explains.

Laser technology likewise allows the printing of images and texts on circular objects such as fancy bottles, which Laserati also sells. These etchings on mugs, wine and shot glasses have become certified hits with the customers.

Engraving can be done in less than an hour depending on the size of the items and the volume of orders.

To ensure the best quality of the products, Mae shares that Laserati's graphic artists were trained for months to master the operation of the laser machine.

Although Laserati has specific designs available to customers, it also accepts customized designs but only for volume orders.

Laserati products cost between P75 and P650 each. The number of images that can be printed varies for each product. The engraving of additional images costs P50.

Mae relates that the company's participation in exhibits and fairs added to the popularity of Laserati. It plans to do the rounds of schools and exhibits to gain followers from students who may choose to use Laserati products as nametags.

For the moment, corporate clients are Laserati's biggest patrons. The usual orders are for glass plaques used in company recognition and awarding ceremonies.

Mae says with the continued success of Laserati, putting up other branches in major malls in Metro Manila would not be far behind.

**Babalewalain pa ba natin ang kanyang kaligtasan...**

**Ngayong nagsasalita na ang mga mamamayan?**

Hindi na maikakaila. Iisa ang sinasabi ng mga nakaraan at kasalukuyang survey. Mahalaga sa mga mamamayan ang kalusugan at kaligtasan ng mga ina at sanggol.

Nagsalita na ang mga mamamayan. Makinig tayo.

**Kilalaning mabuti ang inyong Kandidato.**

**Alamin kung kasama sa kanyang plataporma ang kalusugan ng mga ina.**

***Iligtas natin ang mga ina. Iligtas natin ang bansa.***

# It is time. Candidates should speak out on Population, Reproductive Health and Family Planning issues.

The people have spoken. The evidence is compelling.

The results of the 2004 Pulse Asia's Ulat ng Bayan National Survey on Family Planning and Population Issues affirm what economists, academicians, and population and reproductive health advocates have been saying all along.

- **Almost all Filipinos (97%) say it is important to have the ability to control their fertility or plan their family**
- **Seven out of ten (71%) Filipinos say that a fast increasing Philippine population hinders the development of our country.**
- **Eight out of ten Filipinos are prepared to support candidates**
  - **who are in favor of the free choice of couples as to family planning methods (82%)**
  - **who are in favor of a law or measure on the issue of family planning (82%)**
  - **who are in favor of a government budget for family planning (83%)**
  - **who are in favor of a government program on women's health, specifically about pregnancy**
- **An overwhelming majority (91%) of Filipinos think that a candidate's support for family planning issues will determine his/her election victory (50%) or will have no effect (41%)**

Therefore, those who seek to lead and govern this country at the national and local levels can no longer sidetrack population, reproductive health and family planning in their political platforms. Nor can they afford to turn a blind eye on the relationship between runaway population growth and human development issues such as poverty, education, health, environment and women empowerment.

And so, instead of letting themselves be held back by fear of a non-existent threat, such as that of an election backlash from the Roman Catholic Church, candidates may well take heed of our unsolicited advice. **Clearly, Filipinos want to hear a definite policy and program agenda on how candidates would address population, reproductive health and family planning issues. And the survey says that those candidates who will do this will get the people's support.**

At this day and age, Filipinos no longer regard population, reproductive health and family planning as ho-hum issues. They have spoken loud and clear. And the evidence is compelling.

## Population and Reproductive Health Movement

"A Vote for Population Management and Reproductive Health is a Vote for Life"

Alberto G. Romualdez, MD
Friendly Care Foundation

Aurora Silayan-Go
Foundation for Adolescent Development

Roberto M. Ador
Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Reproductive Health

Eden Divinagracia
Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare

Friendly Care Foundation Incorporated
FriendlyCare Clinic

FOUNDATION FOR ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT, INC.

PLCPD
Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc.

PHILIPPINE NGO COUNCIL ON POPULATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE INC

**Witness the presidential candidates reveal their respective positions on population, poverty and human development.**

**Watch the *"Tapatan sa Halalan 2004"* tomorrow (March 22), 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Studio 1, ABS-CBN, Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City. This will be aired live over ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC 21).**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Globe Platinum is high life defined

EVER the purveyor of pleasurable lifestyle events for the privileged, Globe Platinum continues to reward its well-heeled, loyal subscribers with red carpet events and activities! Recently, Platinum subscribers were led to indulge in divine diversions such as the Globe Platinum FEI/PSI World Jumping Challenge and the Globe Wine Connection wine connoisseurs' night. Both events brought together society's crème de la crème for not only epicurean entertainment, but also to showcase Globe Platinum's superior services and offerings.

For the competitive set, an internationally sanctioned competition of equine show jumping was held at the Alabang Country Club Polo Field. Excitement filled the air as the equestrians took various degrees of jump difficulty. Dani Virata, Mateo Lorenzo, Chato Cruz, and Chelsea Co emerged victorious in their jumping categories. Joining the first-rate assembly were Philippine Team veterans and medallists Vic Barba and Mikee Cojuanco-Jaworski who also showed off their riding form. To add to the thrill of the event, Globe Platinum subs were treated to cocktails while their children were given free pony rides. Globe Platinum and Play Underground's trampoline set-up had both children and adults all jumping for joy.

The crowd was also privileged to make the acquaintance of New Zealand's premiere show jumper and Olympian, Bruce Goodin, whose rousing bareback ride left the audience in awe.

At the Globe Wine Connection, discriminating Globe Platinum subs and connoisseurs got to taste premium Bordeaux, Burgundy and Chardonnay from the best wine cellars in France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Australia, Japan, Chile, Bulgaria, Portugal, Germany, New Zealand, Mexico and Romania.

With fine wine to celebrate with, Globe ushered the Platinum circle to high fashion and art with the launch of top of the line haute couture from Rustan's designer collections, Tutto Moda, which was first seen on the Philippine catwalk that night. To add to the visual feast, a display of paintings from Galarie Joaquin was displayed at the Makati Shangri-la foyer area.

Globe Handyphone and GlobeSolutions booths entertained inquiries on G-Plans and MobileMail. Partner handset manufacturers, Siemens, Sony Ericsson, Panasonic and Samsung likewise displayed top-of-the-line handsets for the Platinum members to acquire.

March 20 and 21 mark another Globe Platinum FEI/PSI Showjumping spectacle at the Alabang Country Club Polo Field will be experienced anew by Globe Platinum subscribers. This time with a carnival theme, the event will be filled with face painting, carnival entertainment and games to delight Platinum members and their kids.

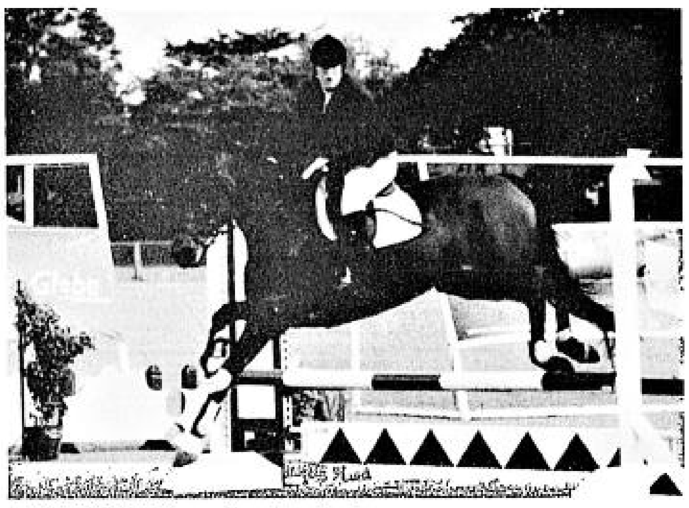
These events were but the tip of the exclusive privileges only Globe Platinum subscribers enjoy. A culmination of the best in sports, wining and dining, art and fashion enriched by precious years of servicing the Platinum elite in incomparable ways. Truly, Globe Platinum is the only path to the high life!

ANDREA Guerrero shows off her riding form.

APA Ongpin, Vic Barba and Jeena Lopez flash the Platinum winner's smile for the cameras.

ALEXIS Cortez beams with pride while receiving her award from Miguel Felix.

PIA Cayetano awards rider Chelsea Co with Los Tamaraos Chief Instructress Janine Santos in the background.


AN IMPRESSIVE jump from Bea Rocha.

**2004 AGORA YOUTH AWARDS**
Shown are the Agora Youth Awardees with the (sponsors) officers of Cocolife and the Philippine Daily Inquirer taken at the Cocolife head office. Back (from left): Roman Malantic (DLSU Mla), Laurence Galindez (PUP), Jaecee Maniego (PUP), Gerald Moscardon (UST), and Miguel Dela Rosa (UNC Naga). Center (from left): Rene Reinoso (SVP for marketing and sales - Inquirer), Marco Montes (VP and Luzon Region head - Cocolife), Efren Yambot (1st VP individual marketing division - Cocolife), lawyer Alfredo Tumacder (president - Cocolife), Ruby Ramores (VP youth and academe - Philippine Marketing Association), and Donald Lim (VP for marketing - Inquirer). Front (from left): Ma. Diana Aaron (DLSU Mla), Anna Katrina Bayona (DLSU Mla), Karla Aurora Soliman (UP Diliman), Patricia Poco (DLSU Mla), and Michelle Cortes (DLSU Mla).

General Membership Meeting
"INTERNAL AUDITING: Aiming for Excellence"
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao
March 3, 2004 · New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati

**2003 OUTSTANDING INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT WINNERS**

Photo shows the winners of the 2003 Outstanding Internal Audit Department and members of the board of reviewers, (from left): PSEC chair Lilia Bautista, Procter and Gamble controls analyst Norman Gabriel and group manager - Asia Internal Controls Theta Marbella , VP and director group audit of San Miguel Corp Vicci Tomas, Institute of Corporate Directors president Dr. Jesus Estanislao, ICD executive director Jonathan Juan Moreno and IIA-P president Edna de Leon. San Miguel Corp and Procter & Gamble Phils tied the award for 2003 Outstanding Internal Audit Department during the General Membership Meeting of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines in New World Renaissance Hotel on March 3. PSEC chair Lilia Bautista, presented the prestigious award to the winners. The award is given to the internal audit department that excels in the areas of professional excellence, quality of service and professional outreach. The 2003 Search for the Outstanding Internal Audit Department was a very tight contest among four companies.

# AMA partners with Harvard

AMA Education Systems Holdings Inc (AMA) has entered into an exclusive partnership with world-renowned Harvard Medical International (HMI) to develop innovative and ICT-based medical and nursing educational programs in the Philippines. Dr. Robert K. Crone, HMI's president and chief executive officer arrived in the country to jointly preside over the partnership launching with Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, chairman emeritus of the AMA Computer University, the flagship educational institution of the AMA Education Systems Holdings Inc.

Under the visionary leadership of Ambassador Aguiluz V, the partnership has five key objectives: (1) develop two distinct but integrated excellent schools for medicine and nursing; (2) develop and implement an interdisciplinary, team-based curriculum designed for the 21st century challenges; (3) select and train the faculty to implement the curriculum through faculty development programs held in both the Philippines and the United States; (4) design and develop state-of-the-art learning facility, with its supporting infrastructure and all other related needs; and (5) leverage AMA's experience in information and communication technology (ICT) to provide students and faculty with electronic access to the best and most modern health care, medical and nursing education, and professional development resources available.

A brand new eleven-storey building in Makati with modern facilities and IT equipment will house the AMA School of Medicine and Nursing.

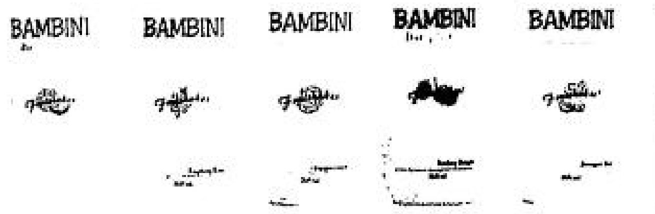
The program head of the AMA-HMI Partnership is Dr. N. Lynn Eckhert, who is also the chair of the Educational Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) of the United States of America. Her being the AMA-HMI Partnership program head is a further testimonial to the excellent medical and nursing programs to be offered in the Philippines. The Partnership also envisions the setting up of medical and nursing schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The AMA-HMI Partnership will also establish the Ester R. Aguiluz Memorial Hospital in the 50-hectare land in Cavite owned by AMA, where the AMA University Town and Telepolis are set to be established along with the AMA School of Medicine and Nursing.

A testimonial dinner hosted by Ambassador Aguiluz V and his family was tendered in honor of Dr. Crone and his party at the Ambassador's residence in Corinthian Gardens yesterday, March 20th. Leading personalities from the government and the educational and medical communities had been invited to this historic event.

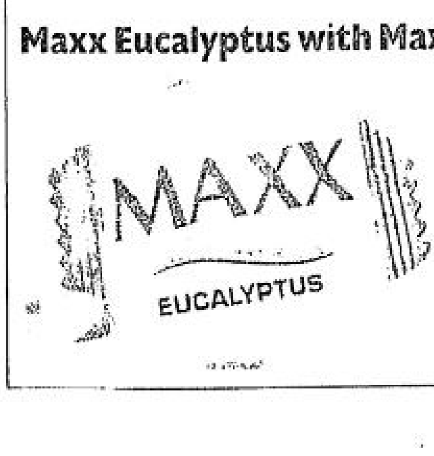
## Product FILES

### Refreshing fruity scents for teens



BLAME it on the changing times that teens nowadays are more conscious about looking and feeling good than ever before. Caring for their body is no longer a chore but an exciting discovery of works and doesn't. So, in between an active lifestyle chitchat about boys and hanging out, they indulge into a youthful vanity that is sure to find a worthy ally in Bambini's new Fruitshakes Baby Cologne and Body Lotion. Bambini Baby Cologne and Baby Lotion offers cool fruity variants such as Dewberry Delight, Grapefruit Giddy, Melon Marvel, Pineapple Pop, Raspberry Rave, Apple Ado, Kiwi Kiss and Mango Mania. It comes in 50 ml., 125 ml. And 200 ml bottles.

### Maxx Eucalyptus with Maxicool



MAXX Eucalyptus, the only menthol candy to have the Maxicool ingredient provides long lasting coolness for maximum menthol satisfaction. Maxx Eucalyptus with Maxicool is just perfect for people who are on the road on a daily basis. It has the right amount of sweetness, and its cooling action lasts longer as it lingers in the mouth and slides easily down the throat. Further more, it does not have any unpleasant, bitter aftertaste. Maxx Eucalyptus is a convenient, delicious and effective way to protect those who ply the busy street from the perils of throat irritation.

# Peace & Equity Foundation joins Panibagong Paraan exhibit held at SM Megamall

POVERTY remains one of the greatest problems our society faces today. As long as it is remains unresolved, we will never realize our potentials as a nation. One reason why poverty remains is that opportunities are hard to come by these days, especially to those who are poor and marginalized in our society.

It was a day of hope and expectations for the small Filipino communities and organizations as the Peace and Equity Foundation Inc (PEF), in partnership with the World Bank Group, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and other multi-lateral donor agencies held the First Development Innovation Marketplace exhibit entitled "Panibagong Paraan: Making Services Work for the Poor" last Jan. 9 and 10 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

In the said exhibit, which is the final phase of the Development Marketplace, 117 proponent-finalist showcased their innovative ideas and programs specially tailored for the poverty-stricken communities in the Philippines. Members of a panel of jurors went around interviewing these finalist and later decide on 40-50 winners. Chosen winners will receive grants to finance the implementation of their project entries.

Headed by Fr. Noel Vasquez, the chair of its Board of Trustees and Enrico Garde, its executive director, PEF contributed a total of P3,171,050 into the total prize fund of the event. From among the winning entries, the following organizations will get their prize grant assistance from the Foundation: 1. Altiora Quaero Foundation, Inc. in Victorias City, Negros Occidental for its project "Let There Be Light (and Water!): PlayPump Station for the Rural Barangays" for P400,000

2. Cavite Institute in Silang, Cavite for its project entitled "Win a Scholarship thru the Collection of Recyclable and Frequently-Generated Trash (Wishcraft)" with P1,000,000; 3. Pag-asa sa Paglaya (PSP) Multi-purpose Cooperative for its "Light a Hope Project" winning P900,000; 4. Rurungan sa Tubod Foundation Inc for its project "Rurungan Weaving Centers in 2 Barangays in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan" in the amount P871,050.

The Peace and Equity Foundation is indeed proud to be part of this Development Marketplace as it continues to forge partnerships in development work with other key stakeholders.

# Beds in the sky, doing business in China, secret addresses

**By Sandra Garcia**
*Contributor*

### BUSINESS TRAVEL TIPS

WHEN doing business in China, it is important for a business person to arrive on the appointed time for a meeting (it is inappropriate to be late for a meeting in China) in a conservative suit with a subdued colored tie for men and a conservative suit or dress with a high neckline for women.

It is interesting to note that women should wear low-heeled shoes. High heels are for formal banquets and not recommended for business meetings especially if the host is shorter than the guest.

Try to learn some basic Chinese words. Your host will appreciate this. Never say "no" as a reply at anytime during your discussion as this will be misconstrued as impoliteness on your part. You can say "maybe" or "perhaps" and just give details or specifics later.

In the past, gift-giving was part of the Chinese culture. Today, gift-giving is generally regarded as a form of bribery. But for the more modern companies or organizations that have relaxed rules on gift giving, you can do so with discretion.

Do not be surprised if your intended recipient refuses your gift if you insist, expect him to refuse thrice (vice versa, if you are the recipient). If he finally accepts, make sure you express your gratitude.

It is important to note that gift giving should be at the end of your meeting or negotiation, never at the start. Photo opportunities during the gift-giving is a big no no! You can only do this, if the gift is intended for the company. (Boxed)

## Secret addresses

"Business traveler/visitor to New York must pay homage to the best steakhouse in the city, Peter Luger. No credit cards accepted. Also, at Hotel Meridien Lobby is a burger place with no name ... just a neon symbol of a burger. New Yorkers swear by it"—Greg Garcia, frequent business traveler.

"Best food for cheap in Rome, Fiaschetteria Beltrame, via Della Croce 39, everything simple and delicious, $10/person, full-course lunch. Hostellerie Crillo n le Brave, best base to see the real Provence. Giulio Giannini & Figlio for special marbled paper and albums, across Pitti Palace, Florence."—Malu Gamboa, general manager, Milky Way and Café, frequent business and leisure traveler.

2003 turned out to be a busy renovation year for Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. Locally, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel launched a renovation program. Makati Shangri-La Hotel's room renovation was completed earlier in the year and upgraded their F&B outlets. A spa was included in the renovation blueprint of Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.

Overseas, ChinaWorld Hotel completed refurbishing in 2003. President George W. Bush, the Korean president and the king of Jordan were among the heads of state who were welcomed to the newly renovated ($50 million) Valley Wing of the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore in late 2003. The properties in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur also underwent renovation.

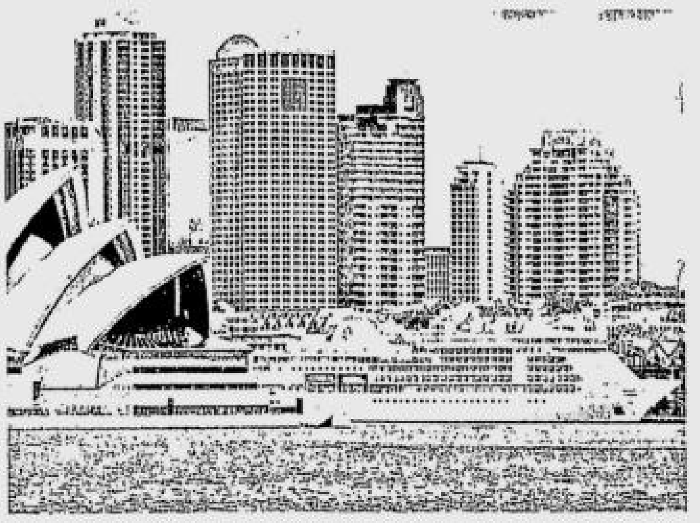
The group's new property in Sydney formally opened its doors in mid-2003. The hotel offers business and leisure travelers, among others, large guest rooms (minimum floor area is 45 square meters) a breathtaking view of the Sydney Harbor or the Opera House or the Garden Harbor.

## Lounge in the sky

British Airways' Club World (business class) now features seats that convert to completely flat, horizontal beds. Costing British Airways more than $300 million to create this "lounge in the sky," it provides passengers with a multi-functional space that converts from workstation to dining room, from a cinema to a bedroom, all at the touch of a button.

The product of extensive customer research and sleep studies with ergonomic experts, the seats are designed in forward and rearward facing pairs. Each armchair-like seat, complete with footstool, converts to a fully flat bed at the touch of a button. Traditional side by side seating is also available.

With a guaranteed fully flatbed, business class passengers of British Airways can look forward to a proper night's sleep on board and arrive ready to do business.



**THE SHANGRI-LA group's new property in Sydney opened in mid-2003. The hotel offers business and leisure travelers large guest rooms (minimum floor area is 45 square meters) and a breathtaking view of the Sydney Harbor or the Opera House or the Garden Harbor.**

## Travel card

To further provide better value and service to business and leisure travelers, Equitable CardNetwork recently launched the Equitable travel card. The Equitable card, a travel mileage card, which had its inaugural take-off at the 11th Travel Tour Expo, is the strategic alliance of Equitable CardNetwork and MasterCard International. It aims to provide better and more innovative rewards for today's discerning frequent flyer.

## Best business hotel

Mandarin Oriental Manila was chosen Best Business Hotel in the Philippines for the third time by readers of Business Asia and viewers of CNBC Asia as the country's best business hotel. The criteria for evaluation included special business services, business and lounge facilities, conference and convention facilities, and guest reward and incentive program.

*For comments and suggestions, please e-mail sdg1402@yahoo.com*

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# Nun turns ...

From page B12

nal and gas pains. It also induces menstrual flow and improves eyesight.

It is the most in-demand herbal product sold by the Sipagko.

She says sambong powder is sold only in Metro Manila by the Council for Health and Development, a nongovernment organization, and Peak Marketing, which serve as Sipagko's main buyers.

Eslopor says they conduct training and seminars in their adopted villages on how to process these herbal products.

"With this simple avenue for self-growth and sustainability offered by the Benedictine sisters, the villagers have become productive citizens of the society," she notes.

Eslopor says the income from malunggay food products is being ploughed back for scholarships in the six villages. Sipagko has 14 scholars who are now studying in the different universities and colleges in Legazpi City and Sorsogon.

Eslopor says they have also built day-care and health centers for the children and created employment in the six villages, which serve as the market for the herbal products the villagers make. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**SR. EDITA C. Eslopor (right), OSB, executive director of Sipagko with board member Emma Paglinawan, packing malunggay cookies.**

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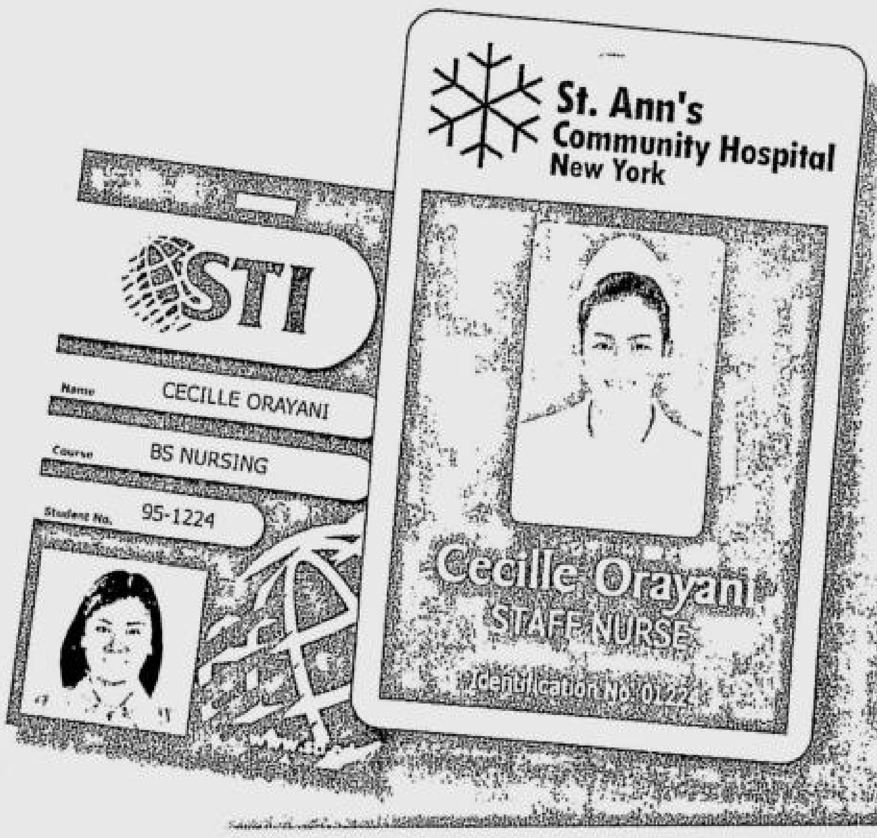
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU FROM ENROLLMENT TO EMPLOYMENT.

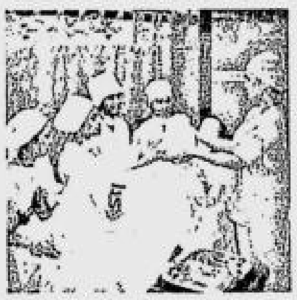


E2E® System
ENROLLMENT TO EMPLOYMENT

The E2E System is the complete approach to human resource development. This means STI students get applicable education, job market skills, job preparedness and job placement assistance.

**Industry-based Curriculum**

ICT-enhanced Nursing Program that conforms to the highest international standards and ensures that students acquire up-to-date skills required by various health institutions worldwide.



**High-Academic Delivery Standards and Facilities**

Composed of highly-qualified Nursing Faculty who are professionals and practitioners in their field of expertise. STI has a complete Nursing Skills Laboratory and affiliations with well-recognized hospitals in the country.

**Certification / Review**

UNIVERSAL WORKER

Guaranteed certification and licensure assistance in CGFNS, NCLEX, IELTS, TSE, TOEFL and the local Nursing Board made available by Universal Workers, Inc. (UWI), one of the leading review centers in the Philippines.

**Job Placement Assistance**

GROW, INC. GLOBAL RESOURCE FOR OUTSOURCED WORKERS, INC.

Guaranteed job placement assistance for qualified individuals in leading healthcare institutions around the globe through GROW, Inc. with its affiliations in the US, UK and Canada.

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Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**
Bids & Awards Committee

March 15, 2004

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

**(RFQ NO. KALAHI-CIDSS/04-DSWD-004)**
**Supply and Delivery of Office Furnitures and Office System Partitions for the Office Improvement of KALAHI-CIDSS Operations Group**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank (WB) in various currencies towards the cost of the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project (Local Nos. WB-IBRD 7147 PH). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotation is issued.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), hereinafter referred to as the Purchaser, hereby invites you to submit a fixed price quotation for the Supply and Delivery of Office Furnitures and Office System Partition for the Office Improvement of KALAHI-CIDSS Operations Group.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained from the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Administrative Building, Central Office, Department of Social Welfare & Development, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

The Schedule of Requirements (Attachment 1) provides a concise description of the items and the quantity required, along with the delivery schedule. A set of technical specifications is detailed in Attachment 3, together with a proposed lay-out which the bidder will consider as guide in preparing their own physical lay-out plan. Such plan shall consider the existing office equipment and furnitures.

Delivery of the goods will be made to the Delivery Site detailed in Attachment 4 within thirty (30) days from the date of acceptance of the Purchase Order.

Should you require any clarification on this Request for Quotation, please notify the Purchaser in writing or by fax at the address below. The Purchaser will respond in writing to the request for clarification which it receives not later than five (5) days prior to the deadline for the submission of quotation.

Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
Phone : 931-8101 to 07 loc. 125
Fax : 951-7116

The bidder shall submit, sealed in three (3) envelopes, **(a) Eligibility (see item 14 of the Terms & Conditions, (b) Technical Proposal (Attachment 3), and (c) Price Proposal (Attachment 5 & 6)** and clearly marked the envelope "ORIGINAL - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, TECHNICAL & PRICE PROPOSAL for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND OFFICE SYSTEM PARTITIONS FOR THE OFFICE IMPROVEMENT OF KALAHI-CIDSS OPERATIONS GROUP". In addition, the Bidder shall submit one (1) copy of the (a) Eligibility Requirement (Item 14 of the Terms & Conditions), (b) Technical Proposal (Attachment 3) and (c) Price Proposal (Attachment 5 & 6) and clearly mark them "COPY - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, TECHNICAL & PRICE PROPOSAL for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE FURNITURES AND OFFICE SYSTEM PARTITIONS FOR THE OFFICE IMPROVEMENT OF KALAHI-CIDSS OPERATIONS GROUP". In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.

Any interlineations, erasures or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the Bid.

Both the Technical Proposal and Price Proposal shall be opened at the bid opening No amendments or changes to the Technical and Price Proposals are permitted. Bids with Technical Proposals which do not conform to the specified requirements will be rejected as deficient bids.

The Technical and Price Proposals are evaluated and the Contract is awarded to the Bidder whose Bid has been determined to be the lowest evaluated substantially responsive Bid.

Your quotation must be received not later than **March 30, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Administrative Conference Room: 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Thereafter, quotations will be opened in the presence of the bidders representative(s) who choose to attend. Late quotations will not be accepted.

Prior to Bid Opening, a **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **March 24, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Administrative Conference Room, DSWD Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitutional Hills, Quezon City An Ocular Inspection of the offices where the partition shall be installed will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference to enable the participating bidders to offer a realistic proposal.

Kindly confirm by fax at (632) 951-7116 within three (3) days from receipt of this request whether or not you will submit a quotation.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
*Assistant Secretary & Chairperson*
*Bids & Awards Committee*

(PDI - March 21, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 731-8101 to 07

17 March 2004

## INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel Two-West Side** with an approximate area of 218,770 square meters.

Interested parties shall submit their Letters of Intent on April 20, 2004 not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and address the same to:

**The Chairperson**
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel Two shall be ready for distribution on **March 22, 2004 to April 19, 2004** at a non-refundable costs of Php5,000.00 for each set of Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from **Ms. Ma. Suzette M. A. Caolil, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group** at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-91-45 or tel. No. 931-81-01 loc. 142.

Two Pre-Bid Conferences shall be held, the first on April 20, 2004 and the second on April 27, 2004. Both shall be held at 2:01 o' clock in the afternoon at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conferences.

**Deadline for submission of bids is May 26, 2004, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.** Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 o'clock in the afternoon, the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder or any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

**FOR THE WDP-BAC**
**(Sgd.) MYLENE G. ALBANO**
Chairperson
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - March 21, 28 & April 4, 2004)

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### St. John's Cathedral School '74 Reunion

The St. John's Cathedral School '74 will hold its 30th class reunion on March 27, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the Star Plaza Hotel, Dagupan City.

*For more information please contact the following:*

Maribeth Cell: 0916-4210846 / 8290012;
Gracia Aquino: 0917-2445884/8420738;
George Maramba: 0920-5836289/075-5224473;
Wilfredo Estrada: 0916-7575420/075-5220484; &
Cezar Sapiera: 0919-8448628/075-5232283

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**TERESITA BARRIENTOS**

Notice is given to the public that three (3) warrants of arrest have been issued against **Ms. TERESITA A. BARRIENTOS** by Br. 39 of the Regional Trial Court of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, in Criminal Case Nos. 6566-68 all for estafa.

Anyone who has any information leading to the arrest and prosecution of Ms. Barrientos, a resident of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, last seen in Pampanga and Batangas City, will be given a **reward**. Kindly contact LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC., at (02)817-5559 or (02)892-6061 to 65; (02)892-6072 to 79 all at loc. 712/713 or Cel. No. 09178519997

From: MANAGEMENT
**LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.**
(Formerly Loyola Plans, Inc.)

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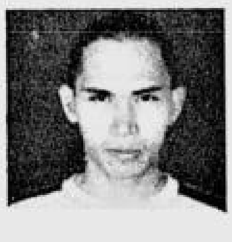
## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **MR. CARLO L. GONZALES**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **GOMECO METAL CORP**. He left the company last November 6, 2003 without prior clearance and turnover and was eventually terminated with the cause effective above stated date. The public is hereby warned that any and all transaction entered with by Mr. Carlo Gonzales on behalf of Gomeco Metal Corporation shall not be honored.

(PDI – March 21, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**BOARD OF INVESTMENTS**
3F Trans-Asia Building
Osmeña Boulevard Corner M.J. Cuenco Avenue
Cebu City
Telephone No 412-1944, Telefax 412-1945

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **MANDALA SPA, INC.** with office address at **Barangay Manoc-manoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Operator of Tourist Accommodation Facility - Class "AAA" Resort** at a capacity of 12 rooms with project site at the same office address stated above has been offically accepted on **March 17, 2004**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 15th day of March 2004.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--March 21, 2004)

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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- Blk. 1, Lt. 23 (Area: 300 sqm.)
- Blk. 3, Lt. 12 (Area: 330 sqm.)
  Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City
- Blk. 41, Lt. 3 (Area: 328 sqm.)
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*Alice Morales Tel. Nos. 8438061, 8433190 Fax No. 8161691*
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For inquiries, please call:
Asset Management & Disposition Division
Hotline No.: 811-9797
UCPB

### HOUSE & LOT

#### MARIKINA

3BR 2TB Store 1car grge #25Solliven Ph4 Greenhts Nangka Mkna 240m² 160FA P3.6M Cel 0918-6590234 475-0926 Mrs. Bagulo

#### BAGUIO

Lot 5,722 sqm 3 sty hse 329 sqm nr Baguio Hosp Call 8109074

### HOUSE & LOT

#### PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN
Hse & Lot Rush Priced 2 Sell LA350m² corner 2sty 5BR 4TB DBO 6471240 0917-5312376

Moonvile Paranaque Gated Residential Community near SM Bicutan and Skyway Exit 3BR concrete bung w/ garden and rental income. Asking P5.9M Call Abie 9211677

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

#### LAGUNA

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### HOUSE & LOT

#### LAGUNA

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Your new hometown.

CALAMBA, LAGUNA
A Quality Development of Filinvest Land Inc.
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Experience all the modern comforts of city living in the relaxed, provincial atmosphere of Ciudad de Calamba.

**GRAND OPEN HOUSE & FAMILY DAY ON MARCH 28**

MOLAVE

DAPHNE

SELENE

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CHRISNAH REALTY
at
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Bank • In-house financing available

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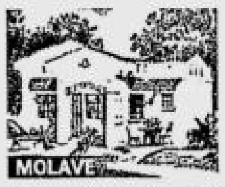
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### BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

4-Level Prime Commercial Unit
Divisoria Standard Unit 4, Cluster Building 1
Tutuban Center, C.M. Recto, Manila
Lot Area: 275.25 sqm.
Selling Price: P9,600,000.00

For inquiries, please call
Asset Management & Disposition Division
Hotline No.: 811-9797
UCPB

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

**MALVAR BATANGAS FARM**

5.9 hec. w/ fruit bearing trees: mangoes (9), lanzones (150), coconuts (800), & newly planted rambutan (500) & langka (300), chico (2), star apple (1) & assorted bananas. W/ hse for caretakers & steel fence surrounding property. Near the new ex-way to Bats. Enter thru Malvar exit. Rds cemented. P300/sqm (neg.). Call 807-8174 or 750-3240/813-6991.

### HOUSE & LOT

#### QUEZON CITY

BELICIA HOMES
TEACHERS VILLAGE
#73 Matimtiman St
5BRS, 4T&B All Concrete
w/rooldeck 2car garage
w/Cistern, Elegant, Exclusive
P 3.7M ONLY
C.M. ILIGAN REALTY DEVT. CORPORATION
(Owner/Developer)
439-6921 • 436-4765
436-4766 • 437-0769

C'wealth 2Sty 400m² 6BR4TB Call 4300530 ; 09175378853

### HOUSE & LOT

#### QUEZON CITY

BLUE RIDGE, Q.C.
400m² Bung 3BR/2TB Cute P10M 200m² 2-Sty+Attic 3BR/2TB P7M 6471240 4395075 09175312376

BNEW 4BR 4TB 2CG
★Proj 8 FullyConcret P3.8M
★Scout 6BR 6TB Grdn Elgnt
★TSora BTub, Spacus P3.7M
★Sto. Domingo 3CG Grdn dck
★Sta Mesa SM, Pool, Sec P9M
371-3996 ★ 0917-7957850 dbo

New Hse N.Fairview 2BR2TB 3sty attic grge P15T 9830892

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#5 Morquecillo St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
Telephone Nos./Fax: 371-0247; 371-8089; 371-0248
Look for Mel or Nerie

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

### LOT

#### QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS, QC
**MRS. GASTON**
AYALA LAND BROKER
TEL: 931-2938 • 931-2948
E-mail: jo_gaston@yahoo.com

### HOUSE & LOT

#### QUEZON CITY

NR AYALA HTS LA448 5BR US Style P13M neg 9288846

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30 - 60M² Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-2302120

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE nr GMA7 QC
4BR3TB 375m² 8.5M Bungalow Tita 09194014983 /9511624

TEACHERS VILL
5BR 4TB 2Car Grge 9132701 9132403 / 09189356366

#### SAN JUAN

5BR Nr G'hills 671-4421

#### OTHER AREAS

HIGHLANDS
TAGAYTAY CITY
Primary/Secondary
Villas
Log Cabins
Pinecrest
Bell View • Woodridge
Lots-Plantation Hills
Alta Mira / Lakeview
Membership Shares
Olive 0920-9019343 • 671-8880

Nova Citation Homes 150m² 1.3M 2T 4BR grge grden 0919-8052280

#### BULACAN

• Lumangbyan Pirldel 884m² Nr. Chpel Txt 09169348927

#### CAVITE

PARKLANE COR LOT 64SQM CARMEN 2310141

#### LAGUNA

2 HOUSES at Sta. Rosa Estates loc Sta. Rosa Laguna 242 sqm 3BR/3TB email dilips@optonline.net

• BUENAVISTA HOMES •
1st Class dev't in Calamba P700Tup,10%DP Lipat Agad! 0919-4135190;0919-4539350

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

*BEST BUY PACIFIC PLZ Fort Ritz Cash/1 yr Rush 7766802

GREENBELT CONDOS
1&2&3BR Direct Pls. 8173544

★GLOBAL CITY ★
Boni Ridge Nr GOLF COURSE Lebby 671-4421•0917-5279121

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.280M 8903461 loc 34

#### MANILA

ESPANA TOWER
nr UST 0917-8102903

#### MANDALUYONG

BNew P'hse unit 4BR w/ TB, 1 Maid's Rm, Spacious Living Area, 2 Outdoor Veranda, Overlooking Wackwack Golfcourse, Facing East, 2 Pkng Slots, Semi-Furnished. Located at # 8 Wack-Wack Condo, Wack-Wack Ave., Mand. Call: 0917-8400829 - look for Malou; 929-9609 - look for Bing (office hours only)

MANDALUYONG nr SM 1. Lancaster Suites 2.Lee Gardens 3.SOHO Central 4.Horizon Flats NO DP 1250 10T Rer-up 9511250

#### MARIKINA

NEW MARIKINA TWNHSE 74m² 2BR 2STRY 1TB FRONT CARPARK W/BACKYARD 1.3 NEGO CALL (0917)8944766

#### PARANAQUE

P2.8M (neg.) 2BR w/grge B'living Cel#0917-4860518

#### PASIG

280sqm Rm 1802 Antel Global Ctr 4 Sale 17M Neg. 8951566 8997974 Jimmy/Imee

#### QUEZON CITY

CONDO F'view QC No Down 1,-2.3BR 15T Res T9511250

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

One Centro Plaza New 1.4M Sct Mad 426-2370 DBO

QC Thse 3BR-2M
Nr FEU Gotesco 9125847

Rosemont QC 2BR2TB 2Carg Eaglestar Kipunan 1.2-2.8M 9120943 / 09178990943

Xav2 QC 5BR 3T 3Stry 426-2370 P4-4.5M DBO Thse

#### SAN JUAN

2BR 2T&B 2.6M 671-4421

3BR G'hills 5.5M 671-4421

#### CAVITE

Ocean Villas 3 sty 222 sqm panoramic view fully furnished & air-con w/spa Call 8109074

### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### VARIOUS AREAS

★Fort Boni ★
Prime Comml 1600M²-5HAS NEW CONDOS by AYALALAND

★ Manila Bay ★
D'Macapagal Blvd 1T-2T-3T
9120943 / 09178990943

### APARTMENT

#### LAGUNA

3Dr 2St Apt. LA120 FA 180 Metroville Sta. Rosa Lag. P1.9M Popoy 0917-5441746

### LOT

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² Direct Buyer Only 0920-9112910

#### KALOOCAN

1440m² w/ Bodega Ofc Bldg P14T/m² neg 426-5395 Sarah

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

#### LAS PINAS

RUSH Comm'l lot 429sqm Along BF Resort Ave. Very Near Seton Sch Tel 837-3489

RUSH Comm'l lot 429sqm Along BF Resort Ave. Very Near Seton Sch Tel 837-3489

#### MALABON

1,413m² Del Monte Mangustan Potrero 8437027 09189258470

#### PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS corner LOT 500m² AM Sun 6337601-03

AYALA HILLSIDE
With in Capitol Golf 450-700
HEIGHTS
400 460 .. 500 600 800 1100
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

★LA VISTA ★
1200@12t 1200-2700@14T-up Also houses 18M 22M 25M 28M
★ Loyola Grand ★
Villas 540 1000 2000 P-I
RP DUTERTE
9120943 / 09178990943

OLYMPUS Nova 120m² 800T 9621424 ; 09172435814 Ella

RUSH WHITEPLAINS 525sqm P20T/sqm 6337601-03

#### PARANAQUE

MULTINATIONAL
P4800/m² NEG
9415641/09162080746

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

# OBITUARIES

**RATE**
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

**DEADLINE**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of

### ROMUALDO "SONNY" MENDIOLA Y SALAZAR

who had peacefully gone home to our Creator and joined our parents **Atty. Miguel** and **Liria Mendiola**, eldest brother **Miguel "Boy" S. Mendiola** and brother-in-law **Dr. Oscar V. Severino**, last March 7, 2004.

Wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our relatives and friends who shared our pains, joined our prayers and most of all showered us with love and concern during the wake and interment.

May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity and with **SONNY**'s smile and laughter, the journey continues.

---

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

### MA. TERESA "MACHANG" YULO SALAS-TAN

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 15, 2004*

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

---

We, the family of the late

### JOSE MEDRANO TIMBOL

**March 27, 1930 - March 11, 2004**

express our deepest gratitude
to those who condoled and prayed
with us. Please continue to pray
for his eternal repose in heaven.

---

"For
My yoke
is easy
and my
burden
is light."

**Matthew 11:30**

---

## IN LOVING MEMORY

of our dear Father

### PEDRO C. PINEDA

**of San Nicolas, Masantol, Pampanga and Philadelphia, USA**

*Born on October 31, 1918.*
*At the age of 85 has peacefully rejoined his Creator on Monday, March 15, 2004.*

His loving family, wife **Juliet**, **Generosa** (†), **Aida** (†); children **Enrico Eduardo**, **Elisabel**, **Ernesto**, **Rodna Alexandra**, **Vivien**, **Rene Eric**, **Therese**, **Carmelino** and **Edgardo**; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, nephews & nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers for a minute of silent prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Kingspoint Subdivision, Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City to be transferred to San Nicolas, Masantol, Pampanga on Monday, March 22, 2004.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at the Holy Spirit Memorial Park, Masantol, Pampanga after the 12:00 noon Mass in San Miguel Parish.

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We design
OBITUARIES
for free.

---

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.*
*I am not there, I do not sleep.*
*I am the million stars that glow.*
*I am the thousand winds that blow.*
*I am the gentle drops of rain.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain.*
*I am the quiet birds in circled flight.*
*I am the soft hush of restful night.*
*Do not stand at my grave and cry.*
*I am not there, I did not die*

### JUAN S. CHIONGSON, JR.

**Sept. 29, 1935 – March 19, 2004**

His remains lie in state at del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 25th of March after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park.

---

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Always caring...* INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
### INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for sale on a per lot basis are the following subdivision lots in Villa Sta. Maria, Barangay Sta. Maria, Zamboanga and Bello Subdivision, Sitio Santol, Barangay La Filipina, Tagum, Davao held by the Privatization and Management Office (PMO), formerly belonging to Sta. Clara Lumber Company, Inc. (SCLCI).

The lots are being offered as follows:

| Lot No. | Particulars | Indicative Price |
|---|---|---|
| I | Brgy. Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City (853 sq.m.) | P597,000 |
| II | Brgy. La Filipina, Tagum, Davao (400 sq.m.) | 100,000 |
| III | Brgy. La Filipina, Tagum, Davao (400 sq.m.) | 120,000 |
| IV | Brgy. La Filipina, Tagum, Davao (583 sq.m.) | 174,900 |
| V | Brgy. La Filipina, Tagum, Davao (300 sq.m.) | 90,000 |
| VI | Brgy. La Filipina, Tagum, Davao (356 sq.m.) | 106,800 |

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on 20 April 2004, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for Specific Rules on Offer for Sale (SROS) and Offer for Sale Form (OSF) for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the PMO Marketing Department, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

PMO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all offers for the protection of public interest and the preservation of public property.

In the event this Offer for Sale fails, PMO reserves the right to consider the proposals submitted for the above assets.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331/817-8762.

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## NOTICE OF OUTSTANDING WARRANT OF ARREST

This is to notify the public that **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO** is no longer connected with KTK Fujikura Philippines, Inc. (the "Company"). A criminal case for Estafa was filed by the Company against **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO** in 1999 and the case is still pending in the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City for which a Warrant of Arrest remains outstanding in her name. Any person who can provide information that will lead the Authorities to the apprehension of Ms. Nolasco shall be rewarded by the Company. *

* Please contact Atty. Purisimo S. Buyco of Picazo Buyco Tan Fider and Santos Law Offices at 888 0999.

(PDI–March 21 28 & April 4, 2004)

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RESUMÉS
INSTANTLY

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**PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER**
East Avenue, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for:

| DESCRIPTION | Approved Budget | Bidding Fee |
|---|---|---|
| Laundry Services | P 3.92 million | P 5,420.00 |
| Dishwashing Machine | 1.5 million | 3,000.00 |

Source of Funding: PHC FUNDS

The list of eligibility requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required is on **April 16, 2004** not later than 4:00 p.m. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at tel. no. 922-0574 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184** pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
*Chairman, BAC*

(PDI - March 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2004)

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. JOSE JESUS M. FLORES**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **GOMECO METAL CORP.** as of December 2002. He has a pending case for **ESTAFA (Criminal Case No. 67109)** before the Municipal Trial Court, Branch 82 of Valenzuela City. For any information as to his whereabouts, please contact 292-4421, Local 214 or 217.

(PDI – March 21, 2004)

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URGENT SALE!!!
MODERN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY IN PEZA ZONE
30,118m2 Land Area; 10,255 M² Building Area
Constructed 1996
Location: Rex Technologies Philippines, Inc.
LIMA Technology Center, SEZ, Malvar, Batangas
For further particulars & viewing please contact:
Agnes Tabing - Tel.: 63 2 852 2910
HENRY BUTCHER
Goindustry INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
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E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

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## MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.
### NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/corporate stockholders:

|  | STOCKHOLDER | ADDRESS | SC. NO. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | National Steel Corporation (1237) | 27F, 88 Corporate Ctr. Sedeno Corner Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City | A-1381 |
| 2. | Ever Textile Mills, Inc. (1666) | 2/F, Chinese Chamber Bldg., 148 Shaw blvd., Bagong Silang, Mandaluyong City | A-1363 |
| 3. | Lebran Realty Corporation (1081) | 2/F, Lpl Mansion, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City | A-2368 |
| 4. | Remedios C. Fournier (0365) | P.O. Boc 4604, Manila | A-899 |
| 5. | Development Insurance & Surety Co. (1485) | 3/F, Fcheng Bak Yek bldg., 668 Muelle de Binondo, Manila | A-1086 |
| 6. | Rafael S. de Ocampo (0134) | 3568 Bataan Street, Sta. Mesa Manila | A-2172 |
| 7. | Times Surety & Insurance Co., Inc. (1531) | ABC Dev't. Corp. Bldg., 2251, Pasong Tamo, Makati City | A-1367 |
| 8. | Nemecio Sy (1627) | #5 Stella Street, Bel-Air Village III, Makati City | B-922 |
| 9. | National Steel Corporation (1239) | 27F, 88 Corporate Ctr. Sedeno Corner Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City | B-202 |
| 10. | Sanitary Steam Laundry (1282) | Bagong Bayan Dasmariñas, Cavite City 4115 | B-354 |
| 11. | Salvador R. Fabregas (0341) | G/F, Bliss Cond., 1198 Vito Cruz Extension Corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City | B-1079 |

The auction sale will be held on 31 March 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Dasmariñas Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice and demand to the members/stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue accounts at anytime during office hours before the auction sale

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO U. MARASIGAN**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–March 21, 2004)

· P O E A 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

# ATTENTION: BUYERS OF MAKATI PRIME CITY TOWERS (Now known as the Palm Tower Condominium)

located at St. Paul Road, San Antonio Village, Makati City

This is to inform you that as of March 2002, the Makati Prime City Towers (Palm Tower) has been substantially completed by its developer and is now ready for turnover.

For buyers whose Contracts to Sell covering Palm Tower units are now with United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) kindly contact the following on or before March 31, 2004:

**Apples Mangubat: 811-9967**
**Gigi Samonte: 811-9962**
**Marianne Glorioso: 811-9482**

or see them at the 4th floor, UCPB Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City to validate your outstanding balances, make the necessary arrangements for your payments and/or turnover of your purchased units.

If we do not receive any communication from you by the said date, we shall be constrained to assume that you are no longer interested in continuing the purchase of your Palm Tower unit/s.

**UCPB**

### LOT

#### MANDALUYONG

### LOT

#### MANDALUYONG

### LOT

#### MANDALUYONG

### LOT

#### MANDALUYONG

# LOT AND FACTORY BUILDING FOR SALE

*Location and Description:*

No. 306 J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Namayan, Mandaluyong City; rear portion of the property is Pasig River.

LOT AREA : 4,287 square meters Php 60,917,220.00 (neg.)
FLOOR AREA : 1,377.50 square meters

For particulars: Please call at **811-5807** up to **14** / Fax no. **811-5815**
Ask for **Gee/Cirila/Dannie**

Note: Prices subject to change without prior notice

#### QUEZON CITY

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antipolo 3749m² good4gas station 09178102903

Vill East Cainta 271m² 3800/m² 657-9731 285-5467

#### SAN JUAN

533m² P11M neg J. Wright Call • 631-6670

#### OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 145m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### OTHER PROVINCIAL

BACOLOD CITY PROPERTY 996SQM COR LOT BESIDE THE HIGHWAY 50 METERS FRM SAN MIGUEL BREWERY COMPLEXN 30 METERS FRM STA FE RESORT HIGH VOLUME OF H20 NEAR PNP PROVINCIAL COMML & LOPUES EAST MALL CEL # 0917-3008143 - JOE GOLEZ; 0917-3713251 GEMMA

#### BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 180m² P2,990/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### CAVITE

Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmarinas Cavite 71,025sqm Call: 0917-4327579

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

#### LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA 240m² Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

#### PROVINCIAL

★TAGAYTAY LOTS ★ 240m²-up 3,520/m² TERMS! No Interest, nr Taal Vista 6609372

### BUSINESS SPACE

POLYCLINIC SPACE 4 Rent 50m² Sta Ana Mla above Mercury Drug 3T/mo 0919-3512810

### AGRICULTURAL LANDS

BULACAN 1501m²=P1M&2ha@ P400/m² 9314466/9124573Beng

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

**MANDALA**
Residential Farm Lots nr QC overlooking MM good investment high ROI pre selling price 727-6871 • 0916-2212781

#### BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

### RESORT

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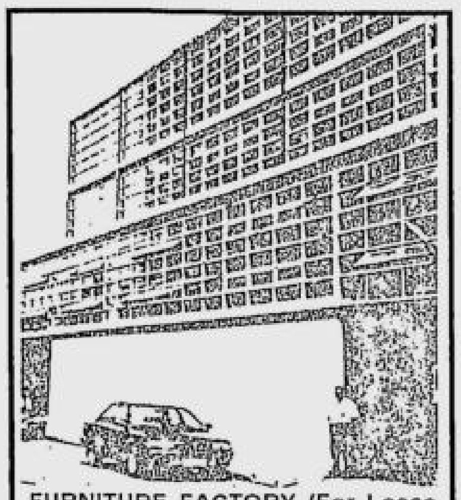

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### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late SHIRLEY F. SORIANO was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 226; Page No. 44; Book No. XIX Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Senen Jose C. Duadico of Makati City.
(PDI - March 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)
ABB

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# Nun turns 'malunggay' leaves into nutritious goodies

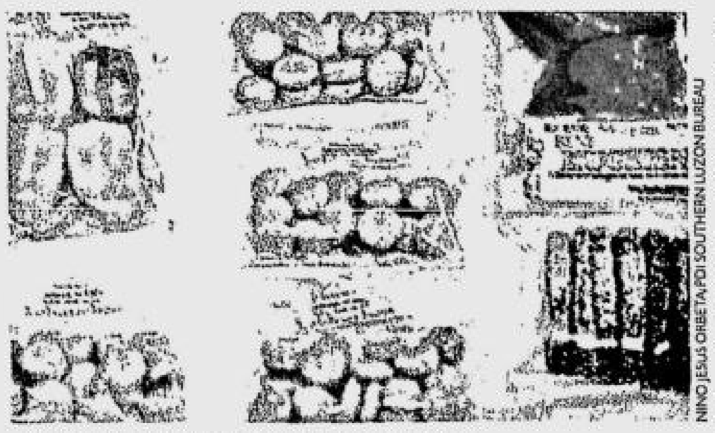
LEGAZPI CITY—Benedictine sister Edita Eslopor, 51, a native of Tacloban City, feels like she won a lottery after changing the taste of students from junk foods during snack time to *malunggay* cookies and polvoron.

Eslopor, who has been a nun for 20 years and now directress of the San Benito Sentro ng Inisyatibong Pagsasarili ng Komunidad (Sipagko) Inc. says the malunggay cookies and polvoron are patterned after Lev Kuchen, a German cinnamon cookie, and have been produced here for three years now.

"The malunggay cookies and polvoron are very rich in calcium and iron compared to other cookies sold in the market, being made from malunggay leaves that are highly recommended by physicians to nursing mothers," the nun claims.

She says the malunggay food products are cooked in flour, butter, malunggay powder, egg, pure honey and one tablespoon of wine (rhum) for every five cups of flour.

It is processed the same way as regular flour food products like pandesal, biscuits, cakes and pastries.



NINO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MALUNGGAY polvoron and cookies, anyone?

Marisa Llorca, San Benito Sipagko Inc. nutritionist, says the malunggay food products are well patronized because they are approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

One good thing about the products is that they appeal to various consumers owing to their varied sizes and shapes, depending on the occasion, and they cost only P5 to P12, Llorca says.

She notes that bulk of orders usually come during special holidays and whenever the Department of Trade and Industry provincial office conducts trade fairs.

Aside from selling cookies and polvoron, the San Benito Sipagko Inc., through the idle couples and women of its five adopted barangays—Maticol, Mayon, Alcala, Bigao and San Joaquin—also makes herbal medicine and health food supplements like sambong (lakad bulan) powder, lagundi tea, ampalaya capsule, ointments and others.

Eslopor says the sambong powder can heal laryngitis, colds, cough, tonsillitis, gastro-intesti-

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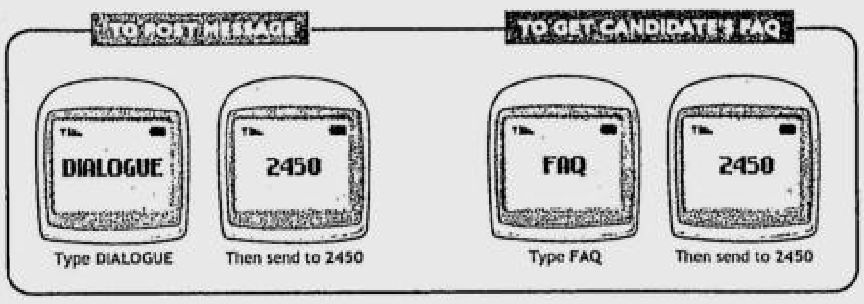

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# GMA's Mike Enriquez rapped, fined by KBP

## *Board says broadcaster's comments personal attacks on ABS-CBN*

"LIFE goes on. I have bigger concerns," says Enriquez.

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) has "reprimanded" broadcaster and dzBB station manager Mike Enriquez for violating KBP program standards concerning "personal attacks" against other broadcasters and networks on his dzBB radio program on May 12 and 13 last year.

Among Enriquez's statements found to have violated KBP program standards were his comments against Sky Cable and Home Cable.

"*Ang sabi po ng* ABS-CBN *desperado na raw ang* GMA *dahil di raw sila kayang talunin sa* ratings *kaya dinadaan na lang sa demanda. Dinemanda na po ng* GMA *itong* Sky Cable *at* Home Cable . . . *dahil lahat yung istasyon, malinaw yung signal, pagdating sa* GMA, *masama yung signal. Sino ang desperado? Wag kaming tawaging desperado, sapagkat hindi po*, (ABS-CBN said GMA was desperate to beat them in the ratings that's why they resorted to legal action. GMA has already sued Sky Cable and Home Cable . . . because all of the stations have clear signals, but when it comes to GMA, the signal is bad. Don't call us desperate, because we're not)," Enriquez said.

### Thousand peso fine

Enriquez was also penalized for his comments on the alleged "personal interests" of the Lopez-owned broadcasting network.

"*Kikilatis kayo sa mga himpilan na pinakikinggan ninyo at pinapanood. Tanungin ninyo. Yan bang himpilan na yan may pino-protektahan bang mga negosyo yan o wala? . . . may mga pulitika ba yan sa senado? Sa gobyerno* (Scrutinize the radio programs and television stations that you patronize. Ask [yourself] if the station is protecting businesses or not, or if it is sponsoring politicians in the Senate or in the government)?"

According to the KBP Standard Authority resolution released on March 5, the sanction was based on a complaint filed by ABS-CBN against Enriquez's on-air commentaries last May.

Radio station dzBB is listed under RGMA, an affiliate of GMA 7.

The Standards Authority (SA) is the enforcement arm of the KBP.

The KBP-SA has also slapped a P1,000 fine on Enriquez for violating section A, paragraph 4F of the KBP program standards, which states that "personal attacks against fellow broadcasters and other stations are considered unethical and subject to sanctions."

### Personal bias, misleading info

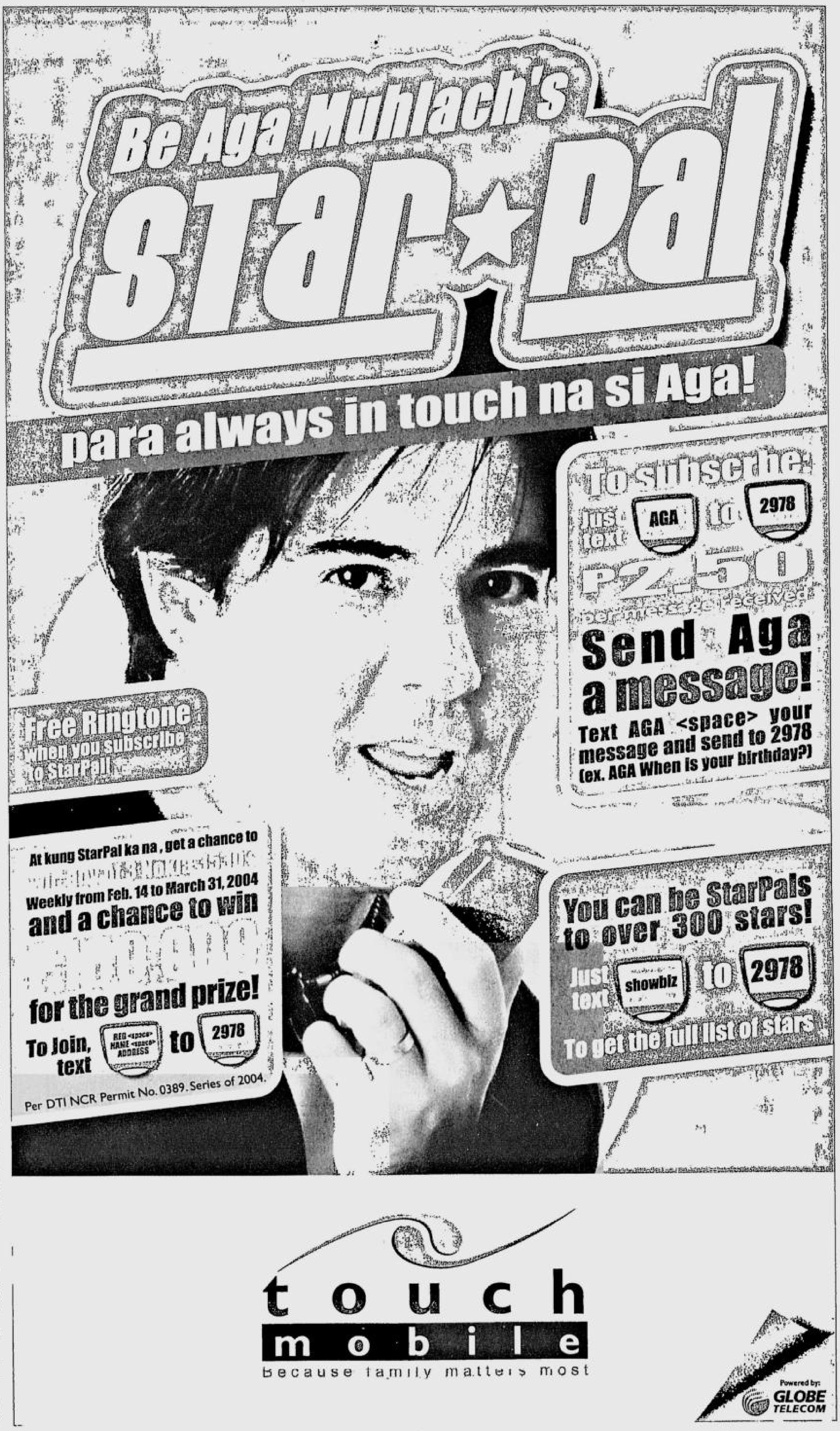
The KBP said that Enriquez had also violated section B, which concerns the duty of public service programs to present public issues "free from personal bias, prejudice, inaccurate and misleading information."

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the resolution.

But in a statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday, RGMA and Enriquez disagreed with the KBP ruling.

It said Enriquez merely reported the factual

GMA'S/ C3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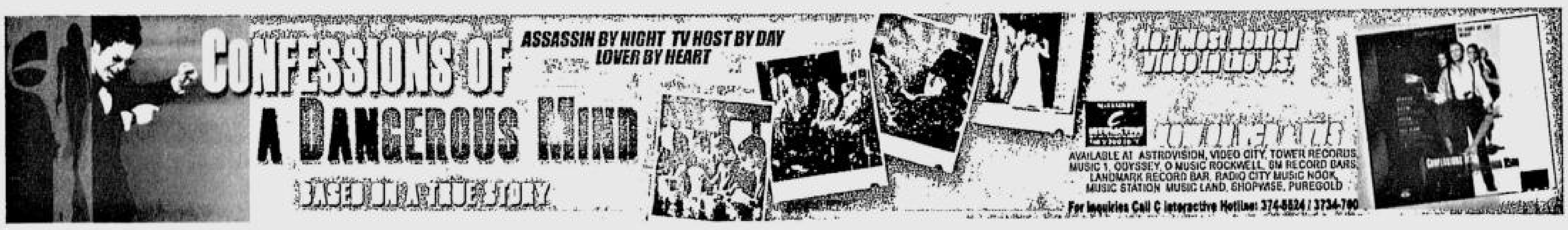
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1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 DUDA/DOUBT
4 HIDALGO
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
7 GOTHIKA
8 SORUM
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 LOVE ACTUALLY
11 CURSE
12 TORQUE

### North

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5239240
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 THE CURSE
5 SORUM
6 GOTHIKA
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 HIDALGO

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
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2 TORQUE
3 CARMEN
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 DRAGON VS. NINJA
6 OTSO-OTSO

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2 WISHING STAIRS
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

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3 OTSO-OTSO
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2 PEEP SHOW
3 SORUM
4 HIDALGO
5 THE CURSE
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 OTSO-OTSO
9 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
11 GOTHIKA
12 TORQUE

### South

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1 TORQUE
2 GOTHIKA
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 PEEPSHOW
6 SORUM
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
9 HIDALGO
10 THE CURSE

**SM CITY BICUTAN**
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1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 THE GRUDGE 2

**SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT**
8294975
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 THE GRUDGE 2

**SM CITY BACOOR**
4173868
1 THE CURSE
2 TORQUE
3 HIDALGO
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 50 FIRST DATES
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8 GOTHIKA

### Visayas & Mindanao

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1 GOTHIKA
2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST CONFERENCE
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
5 GOTHIKA
6 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
7 BONE SNATCHER
8 TORQUE

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3209422
1 DRAGON VS. NINJA
2 RESERVED
3 DUPLEX
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 RUNAWAY JURY
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 RESERVED
8 WISHING STAIRS

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1 GOTHIKA
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
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4 GOTHIKA
5 BONE SNATCHER
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

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2 OTSO-OTSO
3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
4 GOTHIKA

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1
LOVE ACTUALLY
11:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:50/
4:30 / 7:10 / 9:25LFS /
9:50 LMF/12:05 END

2
50 FIRST DATES
10:35 FS/11:05
MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/7:45/
9:25 LFS/ 9:55 LMF /
11:35 END

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1 THE CURSE
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 50 FIRST DATES

**G4 GLORIETTA 4**
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 50 FIRST DATES 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
4 THE MISSING
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 50 FIRST DATES
7 HIDALGO

**GB1 GREENBELT 1**
ArtFilm
1 THE MISSING 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55
2 50 FIRST DATES 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15
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**GB3 GREENBELT 3**
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 50 FIRST DATES [illegible], 4:20, 6:25, 8:30, 10:35
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
4 LOVE ACTUALLY 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 50 FIRST DATES 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15

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2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 LOVE ACTUALLY
5 OTSO-OTSO

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4 GOLD (DTS) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) OTSO OTSO
6 GOLD (SDDS) 50 FIRST DATE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
8 [illegible] OTSO OTSO
9 [illegible] THE CURSE
10 [illegible] GRUDGE - 2

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3
4

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8 U BELT
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4 BAKAT
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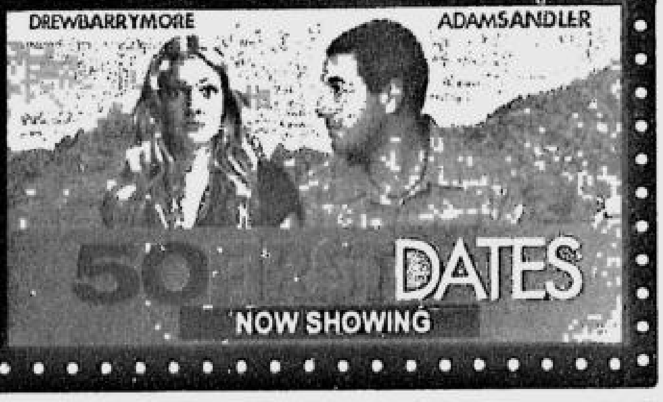

# 'Rings' winners show off Oscars

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Peter Jackson and the team that helped him transform J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy into a trio of movies showed off their Oscars at a homecoming reception here Thursday.

The final installment of the trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," won Academy Awards last month in all 11 categories in which it was nominated—including best film and best director.

Winner after winner took to the stage to place their awards on a table that eventually groaned under the weight of 21 golden statuettes. In some categories, more than one person was awarded an Oscar.

As Jackson headed for the table with his awards for best director, best picture and best adapted screenplay, he said that during World War II, when metal was needed for the war effort, the statuettes were made of plaster of Paris.

"These are metal, so this metal is not being sent to Iraq, which is good," he said.

The trilogy of movies, which has reaped a total of 17 Oscars, were made in this capital city, Jackson's home town.

"We are incredibly proud of our folk who have set the global standard for moviemaking," Mayor Kerry Prendergast said at the reception. *AP*

# Religious leaders condemn Gibson

BERLIN, Germany's Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish leaders Thursday condemned Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," as the controversial movie made its debut in German cinemas.

In a joint statement, they said it was too violent and risked encouraging anti-Semitism.

The movie, which depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life in often graphic and brutal detail, has drawn a storm of criticism as it makes way into cinemas worldwide after its release in the United States.

"The raw, bare scenes of lashing, carrying the cross and the crucifixion itself place far too large a burden on viewers, and, for many, cross the border of what is bearable," they said.

It said the film ran the risk of relegating Christ's life to just those 12 hours, rather than looking at his whole message.

They said it gave "a negative generalization" of the Jewish council that condemned Christ and of a broad section of the Jewish people, warning that it ran the risk "that anti-Semitic prejudices will be revived." *AFP*

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

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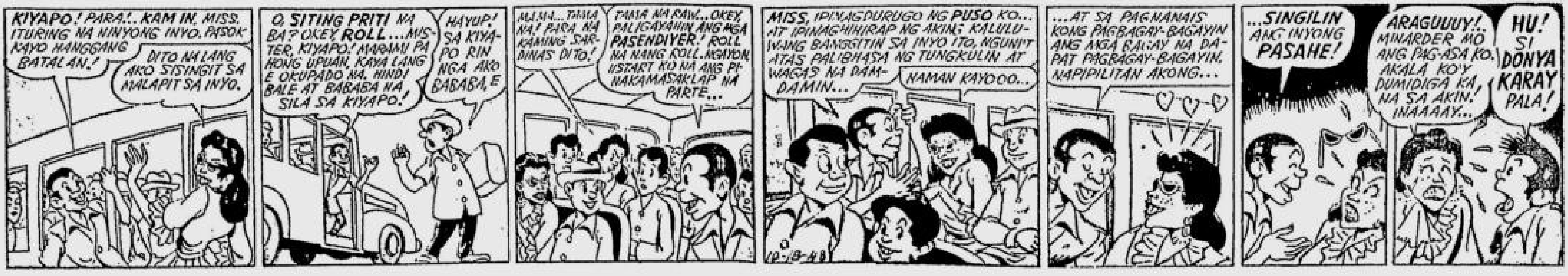
KIYAPO! PARA!.. KAM IN, MISS. ITURING NA NINYONG INYO. PASOK KAYO HANGGANG BATALAN!
DITO NA LANG AKO SISINGIT SA MALAPIT SA INYO.
O, SITING PRITI NA BA? OKEY, ROLL... MISTER, KIYAPO! MARAMI PA HONG UPUAN, KAYA LANG E OKUPADO NA. HINDI BALE AT BABABA NA SILA SA KIYAPO!
HAYUP! SA KIYAPO RIN NGA AKO BABABA, E
MMM... TAMA NA! PARA NA KAMING SARDINAS DITO!
TAMA NA RAW... OKEY, PALIGAYAHIN ANG MGA PASENDIYER! ROLL NA NANG ROLL. NGAYON, ISTART KO NA ANG PINAKAMASAKLAP NA PARTE...
MISS, IPINAGDURUGO NG PUSO KO... AT IPINAGHIHIRAP NG AKING KALULUWANG BANGGITIN SA INYO ITO, NGUNI'T ATAS PALIBHASA NG TUNGKULIN AT WAGAS NA DAMDAMIN...
NAMAN KAYOOO...
10-18-48
...AT SA PAGNANAIS KONG PAGBAGAY-BAGAYIN ANG MGA BAGAY NA DAPAT PAGBAGAY-BAGAYIN, NAPIPILITAN AKONG...
...SINGILIN ANG INYONG PASAHE!
ARAGUUUY!.. MINARDER MO ANG PAG-ASA KO. AKALA KO'Y DUMIDIGA KA NA SA AKIN! INAAAAY...
HU! SI DONYA KARAY PALA!

# Jomari on Aiko, Ara, and other

**JUICE**

*Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon*

*IN SHOW biz, Jomari Yllana is considered another one of those difficult assignments. Particularly when the subject is his personal life, and even after having grown up in a business where the personal and the persona have become seamless, he remains resolutely inarticulate.*

*He will give you a movie-star smile. He will buss you on the cheek. And then, still not saying a word about* **Ara Mina**, *his present girlfriend, or* **Aiko Melendez**, *his former wife, he will make for the exit.*

*Wholly unplanned, two weeks ago he got stuck with me for two hours in a vehicle on a national highway in Leyte, and for another three hours in a village eatery where there was nothing to do but drink, eat, and drink again. He ended up talking for hours. And about everything, too: his real loves, his trystings, Ateneo days, investments, sex, and racing.*

*Here is a tiny fraction of the tamer portions of our conversations.*

## Jom on Ara

Masaya ako ngayon. Sobrang peaceful. 'Di ko ipagpapalit ito. I am enjoying every minute of it. Bigyan man ng tuldok ito, alam kong naging masaya ako. Kung nananaginip man ako ngayon, bakit di puwedeng managinip ng matagalan?

I'm very happy.

Kami ni Ara, akala ng mga tao: show biz, big movie couple, high status, controversial. Pero wala, simple lang talaga kami. Di kami mahilig lumabas. Siya hindi, ako hindi. Ok kami. Nagje-jell kami. We talk a lot. Kahit nasaan, telepono kami sa isa't isa, kahit out of the country. We communicate a lot.

We grow together. Every time na ako nadadaganan at bumabangon ako, natutuwa din siya for me. Talagang we're growing together.

Oo, na-meet ko na Tatay niya. Mabait. Kasing bait ni Ara... [Shyly] Tingin ko naman tanggap nila ako. Para silang mga totoong tao. And we have something in common: he's a motorsports fan also!

Ok na ok talaga kami ni Ara. Sabi nga namin: "Ipon tayo!"

Sa ngayon, napag-uusapan lang. Wala kaming common account. Kanya-kanya.

Nasabi niya minsan, wala naman, nag-uusap lang kami: "Kung ikakasal man ako, gusto ko 28 ako." Di ito usapin na kami, pero iyon ang gusto niyang edad. Ara is 24 ngayon; she's three years younger than me. So, four years pa ang plano niya. Ako, wala, wala akong iniisip na age.

Kasi ang dami niyang plano. Gusto niyang magnegosyo ng gems and crystals, at ayusin iyong bahay niya na di matapos-tapos, tapos inaasikaso pa niya ang restaurant niya. Marunong siyang mag-invest, marunong dumiskarte. May halong utak ng Instik. May pa-feng shui pa.

Naaaliw ako sa kanya. Every year, meron siyang target. Last year: "Gusto ko ng acting award"; nakuha niya. Tapos: "Gusto ko ng soap"; nakuha niya. Lagi siyang merong vision. Masinop siya.

Kaya hindi totoo iyong sinasabing ibinili ko siya ng condo! May sarili siyang bahay, ako nga ang wala. Sa ngayon, nasa Mommy ako, libre renta.

Ang inaasikaso ko, negosyo. Nag-lease nga ako sa Clark, di ba? A big lot. A portion, I will sublease. Ang sa akin, service center ng auto at motorsiklo. Ang mga garages for motorsports vehicles, ang tindi, ang mahal! Dito, it's a tax-free zone. Malaking tipid ng sportscar owners.

Kaya eto, trabaho ako, ipon ako. Siyempre, nag-iipon ng cash ibibili ng bahay. Gusto ko talaga ng isang condo unit.

Within this year, target ko mga last quarter, kukuha ako sa Ortigas o Libis o bandang WackWack. Meron na nga akong nakita na mga 200 sq.m., mga P5-6 million.

Iyong kinita ko sa "Te Amo," puwede akong bumili ng condo, pero hate kong may binabayaran na installment! Dapat downpayment ko malaki, para maliit na lang ang monthly. Palagay ko naman, makakaipon ako. I'm a simple man. I have simple needs.

Kung magkakaroon ako ng tahanan, bahay ito for my children and ang babaeng pakakasalan ko. Gustong-gusto ko magka-anak pa. I am entertaining the thought of adopting. I love kids!

Pero lalong maganda magka-anak sa asawa. Yong ikinasal kayo.

## Jom on Aiko

Gusto ko lang maging happy siya. Wala namang narinig sa akin. Kami ni **Herbert [Bautista]**, nag-drinking session pa sa bahay. Di ako magiging uncomfortable sa the fact na tumatanggap siya ng bisita. Noong nabalitang sila ni **Victor [Neri]**, masaya rin ako for her.

Whatever makes her happy. Even before maghiwalay kami, wish ko lang, siya maging masaya.

Ayaw ko na sanang banggitin na naghiwalay kami dahil ayaw na niya. Siya ang nag-file for annulment. There was a happiness she was seeking, na siguro di ko maibigay.

Ako, I never thought of filing. Noong magpakasal ako, I was emotionally ready, mentally ready. Financially lang di masyado. Tapos nandiyan ang anak namin; inspiration ko iyan.

I never closed my doors sa relationship na napasok namin. Wala namang 'di maaayos sa matinong usapan. Nandoon lang ako. But when she filed, wala na akong magagawa.

I didn't contest it. I didn't contradict what she said: "psychological incapacity." Kasama sa [court] Prayer niya na grounds against me is: siya ang breadwinner sa pamilya, siya ang bumubuhay sa akin. Gusto kasi niya ng sole custody.

Di ako nag-contradict. Matapos noon, di ako binigyan ng court ng obligation sa sustento. Binigyan ako ng visiting rights. Siya, nakuha niya ang gusto niyang annulment.

Hindi ako pumalag... kasi iyon ang gusto niya, iyon ang happiness na hinahanap niya. Sabi ko nga, I've always wanted her to be happy.

Jealousy?

Hindi na. Inalis ko sa sistema ko iyon, dati pa. Kasi kung hindi, di ako makaka-move on. At naalis ko, unti-unti. Down na down ako noon. Nagdadasal ako, dasal ako nang dasal.

At siguro, sabi nga ng iba, "Magagamot mo ang sugat kung makahanap ka ng iba." At meron ng iba. Kung may ibinigay sa akin na ganyang tao, tatanggapin ko iyan. Masaya na ako.

Mid last year ang annulment ng marriage namin ni Aiko. Another page, another chapter ng buhay ko na ito. Move on na muna tayo.

Alam mo ako, pag ganyang may masamang nangyayari sa akin, iyong may sinasabi against sa akin, kaya kong burahin.

Isa akong gifted child [laughs], may talent akong ganoon. Nare-remind lang pag may nagre-remind. Iyong masasama, ayaw ko. Gusto ko, panay happy thoughts.

Kay Aiko, I remember lang iyong happy memories namin.

Where did it go wrong para sa amin?, tinanong ko nga sa sarili ko. We're both two good people.

Just so happened that we can't find a way to make it work.

'Di masamang tao si Aiko. Ang difference lang ay sa design ng pagkatao niya at design ko. Kung baga kotse, isa gawa ng Hapon, isa gawa ng Kastila! [Laughs again.]

**JOMARI with Ara: So happy**

COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

# GMA's Mike Enriquez . . .

From page C1

allegations of the complaints, which GMA had filed against ABS-CBN and various cable companies in the Regional Trial Court and the NTC for signal distortion and unlawful merger, consolidation and corporate combinations.

These statements did not originate from Enriquez, according to the statement. They are true and fair reports on a matter of public interest and concern, it added.

RGMA and Enriquez will appeal the ruling and elevate it to the courts if necessary, the statement said.

## Life goes on

Enriquez, in a telephone interview on Friday said the case is "already in the hands of our legal department."

"Life goes on," Enriquez said. "I have bigger concerns than this."

Enriquez's lawyers submitted a counter argument to the KBP-SA last Dec. 4.

The lawyers argued that "KBP has no jurisdiction over the complaint since Enriquez is an officer of GMA 7 and GMA 7 has already withdrawn its membership from KBP."

Based on this, the court proceedings are "unlawful and irregular," according to the lawyers.

But in a hearing last Dec. 5, the KBP-SA decided that dzBB is listed under RGMA, a company that is still a member of KBP.

The complaint against Enriquez was filed by Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, last May 13, 2003.

## Distorted signal

GMA 7 filed a complaint before the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for distortion and degradation of signal, after Sky Cable and Home Cable transferred GMA 7 from Channel 12 to Channel 14. Network officials alleged that there were times when GMA 7's video appeared with electronic streaks and with discernible color spillover on the two cable providers.

GMA 7 engineers had also reported a tampered audio signal.

The network has also withdrawn its membership from the KBP in September 2003 because it is dissatisfied with the broadcast organization's "present thrusts and actions."

As a result of the network's withdrawal, Antonio Veloso, GMA 7 administrative division vice president, also resigned as KBP president.

During the Dec. 5 hearing, the KBP-SA quoted a letter that GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon had sent to KBP Executive Director Reynaldo Hulog last Sept. 1, stating that, "all AM and FM radio stations of GMA should be listed under RGMA."

A list of all RGMA's AM and FM stations included dzBB.

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# Hot Babes swoon over President

**SHOW TIME**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's facility in several dialects has impressed not only the audiences that pack her campaign rallies but the bevy of show biz personalities that join her sorties as well.

Viva Hot Babes Jen Rosendahl, Gwen Garci and Jennifer Lee have become campaign troopers, accompanying Ms Macapagal as she travels across the country.

Gwen Garci is amazed at the number of dialects the President speaks. "We were shocked. We didn't know she is fluent in so many tongues," Gwen says.

The President can switch effortlessly from Ilocano or Pangasinense to Kapampangan or Cebuano.

"I didn't expect the President to know all those dialects. I envy her. Me, I only speak English and Tagalog. I hope I learn other languages and dialects as well," says Jennifer Lee.

"She's so talented and very knowledgeable. Everywhere she goes, the people listen intently," says Jen Rosendahl.

At the coronation of the Mutya ng La Union recently, the President addressed the people in Ilocano, making her an instant hit in that part of the region.

---

**Araneta Center**

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

### ALI MALL CINEPLEX

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 3 | HIDALGO |
| Ali 4 | 50 FIRST DATES |
| Ali 5 | TORQUE |
| Ali 6 | THE CURSE |
| Ali 7 | OTSO OTSO |

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| | |
|---|---|
| MAR 21 | PBA: SAN MIGUEL VS. PUREFOODS |
| MAR 23 | NCA7-COCK DERBY |
| MAR 24 | PBA: GINEBRA VS. STA. LUCIA |
| MAR 25 | NCA 7-COCK DERBY |
| MAR 27 | CRAZY RIGHT NOW WITH VANESS |
| MAR 28 | PBA: SHELL VS. GINEBRA |
| MAR 31 | NCA 7-COCK DERBY |
| APRIL 2 | ENRIQUE IGLESIAS-7 ASIA WORLD TOUR |
| APRIL 4 | PBA GINEBRA VS TALK 'N' TEXT |

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

### MANILA

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

### QUEZON CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | BALAT SIBUYAS / AMBISYOSA |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

### NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| | |
|---|---|
| A | OTSO OTSO |
| B | PEEP SHOW |
| C | |

### MANDALUYONG CITY

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

### CAINTA RIZAL

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | MILAN |
| CINEMA-2 | LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO |
| CINEMA-3 | DRAGON VS. NINJA |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | CARMEN |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | KUYA |
| CINEMA-6 | U-BELT |
| CINEMA-7 | COLD MOUNTAIN |
| CINEMA-8 | ANNIE B. |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | TORQUE |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HIDALGO |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN |
| CINEMA-12 | LOVE ACTUALLY |
| CINEMA-14 | GOTHIKA |
| CINEMA-15 | GRUDGE 2 |

### LORES

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

### NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

| | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | [illegible] |
| CINEMA-1 | ANNIE B |
| CINEMA-2 | COLD MOUNTAIN |
| CINEMA-4 | TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE |

### UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

---

## EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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For inquiries, call:
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RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT | 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50 | R-13 |
| 2 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN | 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 | GP |
| 3 | 50 FIRST DATES | 11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:50 | R-18 |
| 4 | OTSO-OTSO | 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 | PG-13 |

---

## THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CINEMA 1 | HIDALGO | 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 | P13 |
| CINEMA 2 | 50 FIRST DATES | 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 | P13 |

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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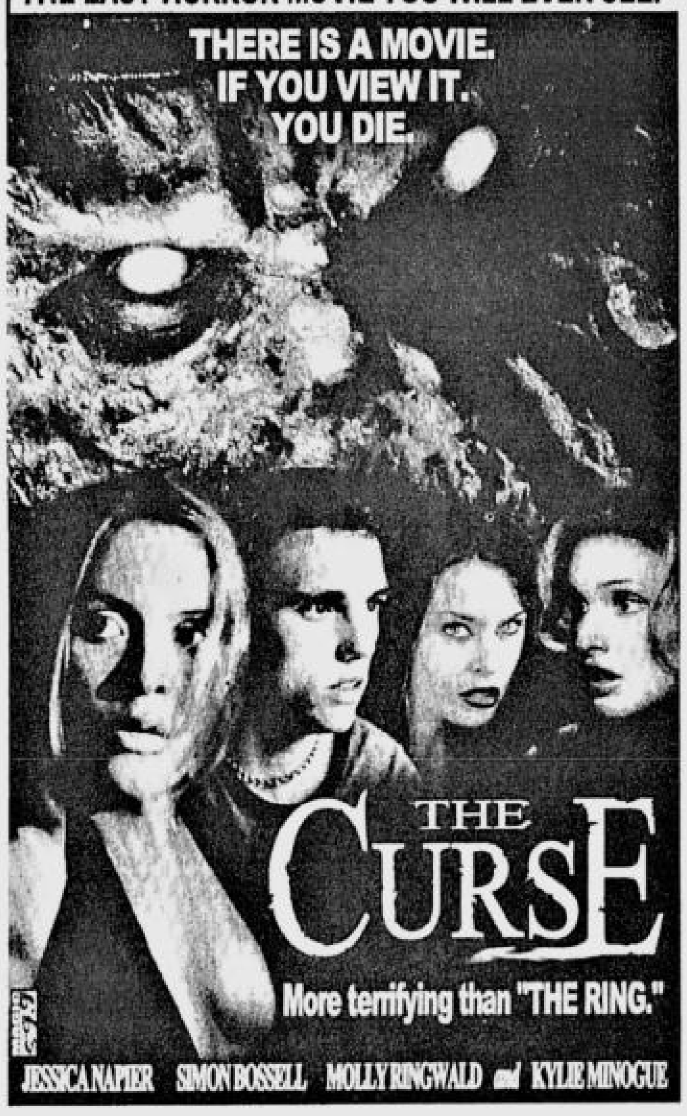
---

## 2ND WEEK

MTRCB ▸ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

THE LAST HORROR MOVIE YOU WILL EVER SEE!


THERE IS A MOVIE.
IF YOU VIEW IT.
YOU DIE.
THE CURSE
More terrifying than "THE RING."
JESSICA NAPIER SIMON BOSSELL MOLLY RINGWALD and KYLIE MINOGUE

---

## 2ND WEEK

MTRCB ▸ R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

A film that will make you laugh.
A film that will make you cry.
A film that will remind you that "LOVE IS ALL AROUND."

Somewhere in this movie,
you'll find the love of your life.

From the Makers of Notting Hill

THE ULTIMATE ROMANTIC COMEDY
**love actually**
Very romantic. Very comedy.

---

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## NOW SHOWING

### GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

| Cinema | Movie | Times |
|---|---|---|
| CINEMA 1 THX | HIDALGO | 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 10:25 |
| 2 | THE GRUDGE 2 | 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:25 |
| 3 | BUTTERFLY EFFECT | 11:55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:25 |
| 4 | 50 FIRST DATES | 10:25, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40 |
| 5 | OTSO-OTSO | 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 |
| 6 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN | 11:55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:25 |
| 7 | TORQUE | 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45 |
| 8 | LOVE ACTUALLY | 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 |
| 9 | THE CURSE | 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:25 |
| 10 | SORUM | 11:55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:25 |

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

### ERMITA

526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

| Cinema | Movie | Times |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 50 FIRST DATES | 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40 |
| 2 | THE GRUDGE 2 | 11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00 |
| 3 | HIDALGO | 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40 |
| 4 | THE CURSE | 11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00 |
| 5 | LOVE ACTUALLY | 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 |
| 6 | BUTTERFLY EFFECT | 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40 |
| 7 | OTSO-OTSO | 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40 |

### Big R Supercenter METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

| Cinema | Movie | Times |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | THE CURSE | 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 |
| 2 | 50 FIRST DATES | 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 SDDS |
| 3 | LOVE ACTUALLY | 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 9:00 |
| 4 | HIDALGO | 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 |
| 5 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN | 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 |
| 6 | THE GRUDGE 2 | 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:30 |
| 7 | BUTTERFLY EFFECT | 10:50, 1:25, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10 |
| 8 | OTSO-OTSO | 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 |

### Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

935-3220 / 31

| Cinema | Movie | Times |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | THE GRUDGE 2 | 11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35 |
| 2 | OTSO-OTSO | 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 |
| 3 | BUTTERFLY EFFECT | 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30 |
| 4 | THE CURSE | 11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35 |
| 5 | HIDALGO | 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 |
| 6 | TORQUE | 10:25, 12:15, 2:05, 3:55, 5:45, 7:35, 9:00 |
| 7 | 50 FIRST DATES | 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:05 |
| 8 | SORUM | 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8:00 |

### Citisquare MALABON

288-0985/2575

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HIDALGO |
| 2 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 3 | 50 FIRST DATES |
| 4 | CARMEN |

### big Supercenter CAINTA

240-4661

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 50 FIRST DATES |
| 2 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 3 | MEMENTO MORI |
| 4 | HIDALGO |

### Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA

Laguna (049)837-0907

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DRAGON VS. NINJA |
| 2 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 3 | CARMEN |
| 4 | LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO |
| 5 | 50 FIRST DATES |

### Big R Supercenter LIPA

757-3664 / 312-5870

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE |
| 2 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 3 | DUPLEX |
| 4 | LOVE ACTUALLY |
| 5 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN |

### Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS

852-2125

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO |
| 2 | WATER DEMON |
| 3 | TORQUE |
| 4 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN |
| 5 | OTSO-OTSO |

### Big R Supercenter STARMILLS

875-1927 / 961-5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CARMEN |
| 2 | DRAGON VS. NINJA |
| 3 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 4 | MAGIC KITCHEN |
| 5 | TORQUE |
| 6 | HIDALGO |

### IMUS

471-8188 / 875-5858

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HIDALGO |
| 2 | 50 FIRST DATES |
| 3 | THE CURSE |
| 4 | BUTTERFLY EFFECT |
| 5 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 6 | THE GRUDGE 2 |

### BACOLOD

441-0458/59

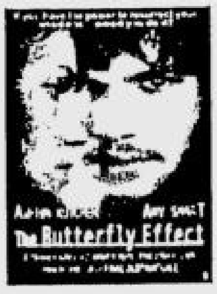
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN |
| 2 | 21 GRAMS |
| 3 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 4 | SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE |
| 5 | WATER DEMON |
| 6 | GHOST HOUSE |

### ILOILO

336-8070/78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RUNAWAY JURY |
| 2 | DUPLEX |
| 3 | OTSO-OTSO |
| 4 | DRAGON VS. NINJA |
| 5 | CARMEN |
| 6 | THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE |

**See it at its BEST**



at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

## ADVANCE SCREENING

* The PASSION of the CHRIST *
March 21 (SUNDAY)
Cinema 2 (3:00 PM)

* SCOOBY DOO 2 *
March 21 Cinema 6 (7 PM)
March 22 Cinema 6 (7:30 PM)

At Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# BEA: Her Life's A Perfect Ten

It all began with a dream to fly. Bea Lucero would pass by the gymnasium at her school and admire the young girls flying in the air. She wanted to be just like them, so at the age of six, she told her parents that she wanted to take up gymnastics. As a little girl, Bea Lucero believed that it was a simple wish, yet it did not take very long for her to realize that she was gunning for a very big dream.

### Flips and tumbles along the way

The world has seen Bea gracefully maneuver across the floor, swing with ease on the parallel bars, and move with poise on the balance beam. She was talent personified. Thus, it came as a big surprise when a coach commented when she was just starting out, "You have no talent whatsoever and should just quit." Bea admits to not being the most talented, but being the achiever that she is, she took her coach's words as a challenge and pushed herself even more. Years later, her hard work paid off and that same coach eventually returned to the Philippines to personally train her. If there was one lesson that this experience had taught her, it was that sometimes, hard work is more important than just talent.

Indeed, Bea is the epitome of a true winner with the heart of a real champion.

Bea coaching her young protégé on the balance beam

Winning is not about being number one. "It's about giving it your all," she enthuses.

### A routine worthy of a perfect ten

As a young athlete, it was important that Bea got through the day-to-day challenges of her training, which is the hardest part of being a gymnast. "The trainings are extremely rigorous. It's just so tiring," she says. To add to the pressure of her daily routine was a very strict diet to control a body frame that was a little too big-boned for her sport. "I had to strictly watch my diet especially because I'm not naturally thin," she says of her built. "But I also needed enough energy to keep up with the demands of the sport." Given these parameters, she worked extra hard to keep up with the competitiveness of the sport. A healthy diet and an adequate source of energy were definite musts. "MILO plays an indispensable part in an athlete's daily routine in that it provides the energy needed to keep going throughout the training," says Bea. "MILO starts the day," she adds. With her goal-oriented mindset, discipline, and perseverance, Bea surely led a lifestyle worthy of a perfect ten.

Audrey getting ready to swing on the bars

### Champion in the making

Following closely in Bea's footsteps is young gymnast, Audrey Muñoz. At the young age of 10, Audrey has already bagged seven gold medals at three Bea Lucero Gymnastics Cup tournaments. The rigorous daily training and rigid diet that come with the sport have done nothing but make her work harder and aim higher. Just like Bea, Audrey starts her day with a glass of MILO. Looking bright-eyed at her idol, she muses, "I want to be just like Bea." Without a doubt, Audrey is a future Olympic champion in the making, and with an idol and mentor like Bea, Audrey's first perfect ten performance is on its way.

Bea and Audrey enjoying a break at Club Gymnastica

### Graceful leap into motherhood

From being a little girl who simply wanted to fly, Bea lived out the Olympic dream that made her a gymnastics legend. Now, she is ready to put that life behind her to start living another one of her dreams – being a mother and a wife. As she moves on to the next chapter of her life, she ensures that the athlete in her will always be there. "I've been in sports since I was 6 and I've been with MILO for 19 years. I think that until the day I die, I'm still going to take all those memories of being an athlete with me. Gymnastics has done so much for me," Bea says with a fulfilled smile.

The imprints that gymnastics has left in Bea's life will carry her through the next chapter of her life. As she makes a leap into motherhood, we can only look with proud smiles knowing that her life's next performance will be just as worthy of a perfect ten.

Bea breaks into a perfect 10 smile

MILO
40 YEARS
THE WINNING ENERGY LIVES ON
One more time!

Twists. Turns. Tumbles.
I faced them all with MILO.
Now it's your turn.

And I know you'll score
a perfect 10 with MILO.
Because with all the B Vitamins
and essential micronutrients of Actigen-E,
you'll get all the strength and energy you need.

Face whatever somersaults life brings you.
Take that MILO one more time.

AUDREY MUÑOZ
NCR Palaro, 2003 (Gold)
BEA LUCERO
Olympics, 1992 (Bronze)
SEA Games, 1985 & 1987 (Gold)
with ENERGY RELEASING Actigen-E
Nestlé MILO
Nestlé MILO
One More Time!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Beauty and brawn

**JACKIE Lou: Boxing**

ACTRESS Jackie Lou Blanco has become the poster girl for Filipina masculinity, and she shares her fitness routine and workout techniques in the instructional video "Working Out with Jackie Lou Blanco," released by Viva Video. .

Jackie relates that a female friend who developed an enviable physique inspired her to flex her muscles. She immersed herself in training, and in 2001 her dedication paid off when she took home the Ms Great Body Award in a weightlifting competition.

The award has further stimulated her passion for body building and she is now taking up boxing on top of her weight training.

"Working Out with Jackie Lou Blanco" is available on VCD and DVD.

## Almost Kinda Acoustic 3

WARNER Music Philippines has released the third installment of the Almost Kinda Acoustic series, featuring hard-to-find songs re-arranged in soothing acoustic versions.

The album kicks of with punk-rockers Simple Plan's teenage anthem "Perfect," which sets the tone and pace of the compilation of 17 tracks of soft strumming, sweet humming songs.

Sublime's ska-ode "What I Got," The Sunday's melodious "Summertime," Sixpence None the Richer's remake of the classic "Don't Dream It's Over," piano child prodigy Tori Amos' "Taxi Ride" and former 10,000 Maniacs lead singer Natalie Merchant's live performance of "Kind and Generous" are among the tracks.

Also featured are Damien Rice's "Cannonball," Jason Mraz's "The Remedy" (Acoustic Version), Sugarcult's "Memory," Lisa Loeb's "I Do," Phantom Planet's "Lonely Day," Moonpools & Caterpillars' "Soon," David Gray's "Dead In the Water," Anika Moa's "Falling In Love Again," Beth Orton's "Central Reservation," The Corrs' "Runaway" and Patrick Nuo's "Welcome."

## Radio show inspires CD

YOU & I is a radio show aired three times a day over I-FM 93.9. from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Hosted by Raymond Ryan and Bernie, the show offers laidback music that caters to people who want mellow sounds.

The show has also inspired a CD of easy listening songs, a compilation tie-up of Universal Music Philippines and I-FM 93.9.

The album features "Because Of You" (Keith Martin), "Moonlight Over Paris" (Vanessa Williams), "Danny's Song" (Loggins & Messina), "Never Gonna Fall In Love Again" (Eric Carmen), "Solitude" (Edwin McCain), "Afterall" (Cher & Peter Cetera), "Simply" (Sara Hickman), "Love Will Lead You Back" (Taylor Dayne), "We're All Alone" (Rita Collidge), "Overjoyed" (Stevie Wonder), including the bonus track "You Raise Me Up" by Secret Garden.

## Paolo Santos' 2nd wave

**PAOLO Santos: Mr. Acoustic**

MISTER Acoustic Paolo Santos has released "Wave Sessions 2," his second compilation album of covers under Warner Music Philippines.

The album spans a more diverse scope of songs that have not yet been fully explored and heard in Paolo's performances.

From the Beatles' classic "Penny Lane," to the David Gray anthem "Babylon," to Smokey Robinson's "Tracks of my Tears," Paolo offers his take on these pop hits as he emphasizes the magic of the music.

Wave Sessions 2 also includes contemporary music like Ben Folds Five's "Brick," Shawn Colvin's "Sunny Came Home" and Vertical Horizon's "Everything You Want."

Highly regarded as the artist who created a new spin on contemporary acoustic music, Paolo heaps another serving of songs, delivered in his own unique style and sound.

## 5566 fever in Manila

**MALL TOUR: Tony Sun, Sam Wang and Cyndi Wang**

THE RECENT Manila visit of Tony Sun and Sam Wang has ignited the 5566 fever.

Tony, Sam and "Westside Story" co-star Cyndi Wang were in Manila to appear in "Star Circle Quest" and to perform at SM North Edsa Entertainment Center where they also signed autographs.

Their SM sojourn broke existing record sales set by top local artists Martin Nievera, Aiza Seguerra, the Sex Bomb girls and Sarah Geronimo, generating P127,000 in total sales of 5566 CDs and cassettes.

Tony and Sam, whose new album will soon be released by Universal Records under the Avex Trax Label, will return to Manila in the middle of this year to stage a full-length concert.

# Gay people's Everyman search for one true love

**By Oliver M. Pulumbarit,**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

DESPITE the fact that gays live their lives freely in this country, they're still treated by certain sectors of society with blatant insensitivity.

People might deny this in the spirit of political correctness. But the fight for acceptance continues, as many lawmakers and religious leaders have overtly and self-righteously opposed same-gender unions, labeling such relationships "unnatural" or "immoral."

But gay relationships work. Many same sex couples, whether secretly or openly, have gone through many years of commitment, hoping and fighting for recognition of their partnerships. They start their own functioning families, sadly unrecognized by the apathetic and the unthinking.

### Noisy, horny

Positive portrayals have been few and far between in television or the movies, as the stereotypical gay man is portrayed as the perpetually noisy, horny and despicable butt of jokes. It's as if the idea that the smart, sensitive gay person actually exists is such an alien concept for the spoon-fed traditionalist to swallow.

From seemingly out of nowhere, a well-sponsored gay movie, "Duda" ("Doubt") appears, currently being shown at different SM Mall theaters in separate weeklong runs. Written and directed by Cris Pablo, "Duda" explores the gay Everyman's search for real happiness and that elusive, one true love. "Duda" is a must-see, whether one is gay, straight, or purports to belong to whatever persuasion.

Cris (Andoy Ranay) is a 35-year-old documentary director in a turbulent, yearlong relationship with an aspiring reporter, Erik (Paolo Gabriel). Cris had slept around a lot before he met Erik, but decided to give up promiscuity for this man he genuinely loves. Cris believes that he's finally found someone he can grow old with. Living together worked: They share everything, from angsty family histories, to the same shirt size.

### Strange vibes

But the younger, discontent Erik has been emitting strange vibes lately, which causes a suspicious Cris to constantly demand honesty from his lover. He would later discover through his persuasive investigative skills (and a handy, creative dream sequence) many truths about Erik and their failing relationship. Having found only one true love after so many years of bed-hopping, Cris is a newbie at heartbreak.

Unknown actors play majority of the characters. Ranay shines and effectively plays Cris as a charismatic, sulking, and pained protagonist. Gabriel is nicely insufferable as the irritable lover. There are inspired performances by the actors playing Cris' friends, like Raye Pumaloy, Bel Clerigo and Jojo Nones. Talk show fixture John Lapus appears briefly as (surprise!) a funny talk show host.

### Nifty visual effects

A few minor characters, however, tend to appear leaden, overacting, or even self-conscious sometimes, which affects the otherwise decently written script. And since we're in the subject of gripes, the English subtitles have punctuation and spelling errors. "He'll," for instance, often appears as "Hell," like a hasty text message.

The editing could be smoother. The use of actual sound works well, but sometimes the transition from shot to shot translates as choppy. For example, two characters are talking over a quiet background. When a close-up shot is used, loud, noticeable electrical humming in the background can suddenly be heard, which can be a little disorienting. These only happen in a few scenes devoid of music, thankfully.

There have been some nifty, welcome visual effects used here that make the digitally shot movie textured and looking like a fused news documentary and edgy home video at times. Pablo puts his considerable know-how as director of GMA's "I-Witness" and "Emergency" shows to good use here.

The story plays out nicely, its characters showing diverse types of gay people. There's the effeminate socialite type. There's the quiet idealist. There's the lesbian mom who left her husband and children. There's even a homophobic homosexual, a pretty common conundrum these days. Not all gay people are portrayed as saints or martyrs here, and the straight ones aren't shown as token grossed-out bigots, either.

### Self-loathing

Not a lot of people are ready to give unconditional acceptance, though, and gays often get punished for straying from "the norm." Many of them either wallow in self-loathing, or desire to be better than everyone. The Cris character epitomizes the latter. By excelling and thinking outside imposed conventions, he finds and accepts who he is at a young age.

But heartache is a gender-less affliction, as the bittersweet and potent "Duda" repeatedly and piercingly reminds viewers.

"Duda" is currently screening at SM Manila until March 23, and at SM Centerpoint from March 24-30.

# 'Kanlungan' now everybody's song

**By Frank Cimatu,**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—Songwriter Romeo Dongeto was having dinner with his friends one night at a restaurant in in UP Village in Quezon City.

At a nearby videoke bar, they could hear a drunken man singing Dongeto's song, "Kanlungan."

The current radio staple, which has a haunting melody and emotive lines that go, "*Panapanahon ang pagkakataon maibabalik ba ang kahapon* (Time comes by chance when one can bring back yesterday)," was not lost on Dongeto's friends.

One of them lighted up and nudged the songwriter, noting the obvious, "Somebody's singing you're song."

Dongeto replied, "It's everybody's song now."

### Chat rooms

Just check the karaoke bars and folk bars. Enter the public comfort rooms with piped in music, and the ditty will likely be blaring from the speakers.

The song has also invaded chat rooms where forums echo the sensibilities of the song.

"I really like the song because it tells something about the Pinoy's attitude," posted Leonard in a Pinoy chat room.

"*Pag maririnig ko ang awit na ito biglang tutulo ang luha ko* (My tears would fall every time I hear the song)," posted Anicris Sy.

But before the song became everybody's property, "Kanlungan" belonged to Dongeto. He remembers composing the song in 1990 during his traveling days as a cultural worker.

"*Natatandaan mo pa ba, inukit kong puso sa punong mangga at ang inalay kong gumamela magkahawak-kamay sa dalampasigan. Malayang tulad ng mga ibon ang gunita ng ating kahapon* (Do you still remember the heart carved on the branch of a manggo tree and the *gumamela* I offered to you while we held hands by the beach when we were free as the birds and the memories of yesterday)?"

'Kanlungan' shows Dongeto's romantic side, a shade of his nature that he has been trying to rebel against since he was a young boy

Now, Dongeto, who was born in Tondo, is asking: "What do I know about nature?"

### No blood spilt

But he says that "unlike my other songs, I did not spill blood while composing this one. It just came to me."

Radically different from Buklod's other songs like "Sagod/Lupao," "Butil at Buhay" and "Oyayi sa Mundo" which were rallying cries, "Kanlungan" shows Dongeto's romantic side, a shade of his nature that he has been trying to rebel against since he was a young boy who was born in Tondo in 1963.

Dongeto was in high school when his father died. He was raised by his mother, Carolina Cruz, a winner of amateur singing contests in her youth, who still finds work as a movie extra and bit players in television sitcoms.

As a student in Torres High School, Dongeto is remembered as a firebrand. He enrolled at the Far Eastern University so he could help organize the students against the system.

In 1983, Dongeto joined Sinaglahi, a left-leaning cultural organization. In 1985, he helped form the Bukluran ng mga Musikero Para Sa Bayan, an alliance of musicians which included Pol Galang and Nuklyus Band.

Wherever there was a big rally or protest action, the BMMPB, which was later shortened to Buklod, would provide the soul-stirring music of protest.

In 1987, Noel Cabangon spotted Dongeto singing in Kamuning and persuaded him to join him and Rene Boncocan, now an advertising executive, to form Buklod, which became the "house band" of the street parliamentarians.

That same year, Buklod released its self-titled album, which was followed a year later by "Buhay at Bukid" and "Tatsulok" in 1989.

Buklod has also performed in compilation albums like the "Karapatang Pantao Concert Tour," "Freedom from Debt Coalition Album," "Dear Cory Album," "Musicians for Peace" and the "Lost Generation Album."

### Youth anthem

But "Kanlungan" remains to be Dongeto's best, triggering memories and tears in every man, and empowering the youth with an anthem they can call their own. Years from now, when the song is played in radio stations as a hit back, it would still most likely trigger memories of youth, which to this writer is a gray space where he had tried to fathom what the Seattle grunge band Nirvana was shrieking in "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

# Fegi sings songs from theater, movies

AFTER clinching the grand prize as interpreter of Arnel de Pano's "Kailan Kita Mamahalin" for Himig Handog Love Songs, Anna Fegi buckles down to work on her fifth year anniversary concert "Anna Fegi: Stage and Screen," 8:30 p.m., on Saturday at the Philamlife Theater in Manila.

The show will feature songs from the movies and theater.

Dramatic tenor Ramon Acoymo and Reuben Laurente of The Company are Fegi's special guests.

Acoymo, who has successfully interspersed classical music with pop in his concerts, is working for the fourth time with Fegi.

Chair of the UP Voice Department, College of Music, Acoymo held a landmark solo recital at the CCP Main Theater, "A Voice for the Children," in 2003, the first such recital by a Filipino artist.

He capped the year as lead in the British opera, "The Bear," in Hong Kong with the London Philharmonic. He was recently honored with the UP Chancellor's Award for Artistic Excellence and Admission in the prestigious and competitive Phi Kappa Phi International Academic Honor Society Faculty Roster.

But this is the first time that Laurente would be working with Fegi.

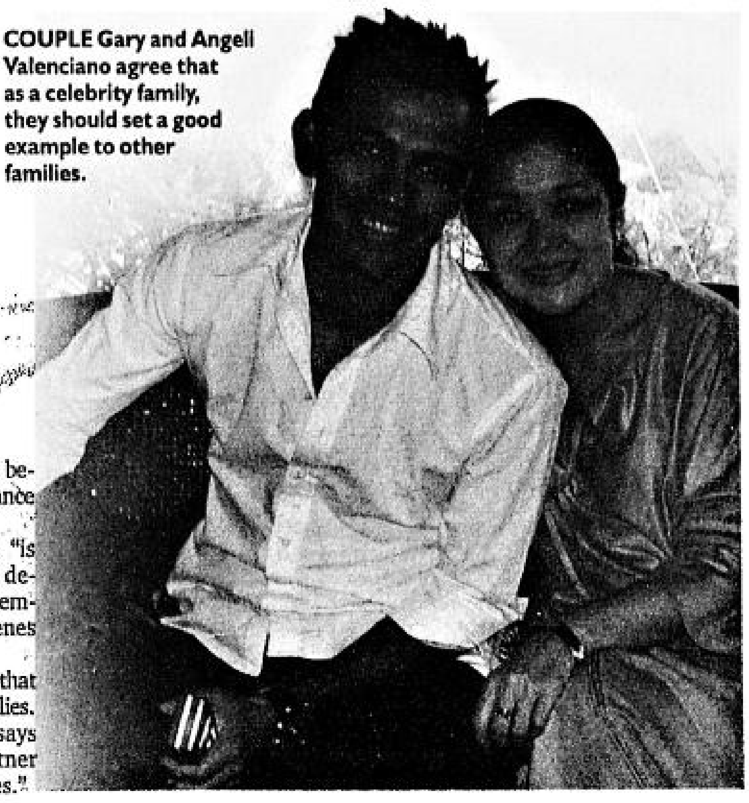
"Anna Fegi: Stage and Screen" is produced and directed by Manolet Garcia of Entertainment Agenda in cooperation with The Philippine School of Interior Design and Rado. It is Fegi's sixth concert with Garcia, who is instrumental in the semi-classical direction of Fegi's career.

His past projects were "Voice, A Perfect Acoustic Concert," "Symphony of Summer," featuring the 80-piece UST Symphony Orchestra in Kalibo and Boracay, "Anna Fegi: This is the Moment at Hard Rock Cafe" and "Anna Fegi" The Homecoming Concert" recently staged in Cebu .

For inquiries, call 72110801, 7241762.

## GARY AND ANGELI VALENCIANO

# Taking popularity, family seriously



COUPLE Gary and Angeli Valenciano agree that as a celebrity family, they should set a good example to other families.

**By Jocelyn Valle**

THE FRAMED photographs all around the house of Gary Valenciano, his wife Angeli (nee Pangilinan) and their kids Paolo, Gabriel and Kiana in Antipolo tell a story of a happy and close-knit family.

Beaming faces are recorded in solo and group shots. There are poses of the kids with their cousins. A black-and-white portrait of Gary as a toddler and that of his mother stand out in a sea of colored pictures. Even in the singer-actor's music room, there are snapshots of his kids tucked in corners. On the monitor of his PC, is an image of Paolo, as screen saver.

Family is very important to the Valencianos.

"Sadly, it's lost," says Angeli, referring to the state of the Filipino family today.

"Basically, we live in a two-occupation family, unlike 16 or 20 years ago when only the father was working. The mother stayed home and did part time work.

"Now, the children are lost in video games or in surrogate parents that really don't work. In the States, they've made a survey that that families with two or more occupations are more expensive to maintain because you have to pay for a babysitter, the clothes that you wear to work. In LA, you have to have two cars, so you pay for two amortization. In the evaluation, it's really better that only the father works, and the mother stays at home and take care of the kids. I think that in a certain extent, it could also happen here."

### Losing personal touch

Nodding, Gary says: "It's in a very critical stage right now. The one-on-one communication between people is lost because people would rather text each other. You can't react *naman* in real time. Eventually, the family would go that way. It's going to be done in ways that we'd lose that personal touch."

That's why Gary and Angeli make it a point to communicate and spend time together.

"As a parent, I believe in quality time, but it has to be on how your children believe in quality time," he points out.

Gary shares that he loves playing basketball and watching movies and cartoons with Paolo, 17, and Gabriel, 15.

"We watch 'Justice League,'" he grins. "When the story's really interesting, my son would text me: Dad, Hawkgirl is gone from the Justice League. *Ako naman*: What happened? Why is she gone? Well, she's a spy after all. *Ganyan-ganyan*. I'll tell you more when you come home."

Their only girl, Kiana, 11, loves to watch video, too, says Angeli.

"But she also loves to read. I taught her how because I love to read. So when they're watching a video, I'll be there reading."

### Abnormal

Because they both work, Gary and Angeli, who is president of Manila Genesis, which takes care of the entertainment careers including Gary's, consider their family a modern Filipino family.

"But it's a very abnormal modern type of family because everybody is going everywhere," he avers.

"We don't often have dinner or lunch together. But we make it a point to have family dinner every Sunday."

"Gary has 'Asap', so we go to church at five in the afternoon," Angeli offers. "After that, we eat out as a family. Even when it comes to going to church, we're a modern family. Paolo likes to go Victory Christian Fellowship. Gabriel likes to go to Ayala Alabang. Kiana likes to go to World Community Church. It's so tough for us. Because of 'Asap,' Paolo goes to church in the morning; Gab goes to church in the morning and goes with his friends in the afternoon. But Kiana goes to church with us. At first it bothered me that the family doesn't go to church together. But when I consulted several church advisers and pastors, they said, 'You know, Angeli, it's good that your children want to go to church.'"

As a couple, Gary and Angeli observe traditional family values because they have typical family problems, too. They set a curfew and put a limit on cell phone bills. And when they hear complaints about their children from the house help or from other people, they make it a point to hear the side of Paolo, Gabriel and Kiana before they scold them.

"Gabriel was trying to come home at 9 p.m. from Alabang, and I said no," Angeli relates. "When he asked why, I said because of school. I think the problem in my family is that they're all artists. So their interest span for schooling is not good. Gab's like his dad. Gary's time has to be managed, same with Gabriel. Unlike Paolo, who can manage his time. Paolo is more independent.

"Kiana is also very organized. She knows what she wants to do in her life. This weekend she wants to go to her cousins. She makes it happen before she asks for permission. She's very intelligent."

### Role model

Paolo is very much like Angeli, says Gary.

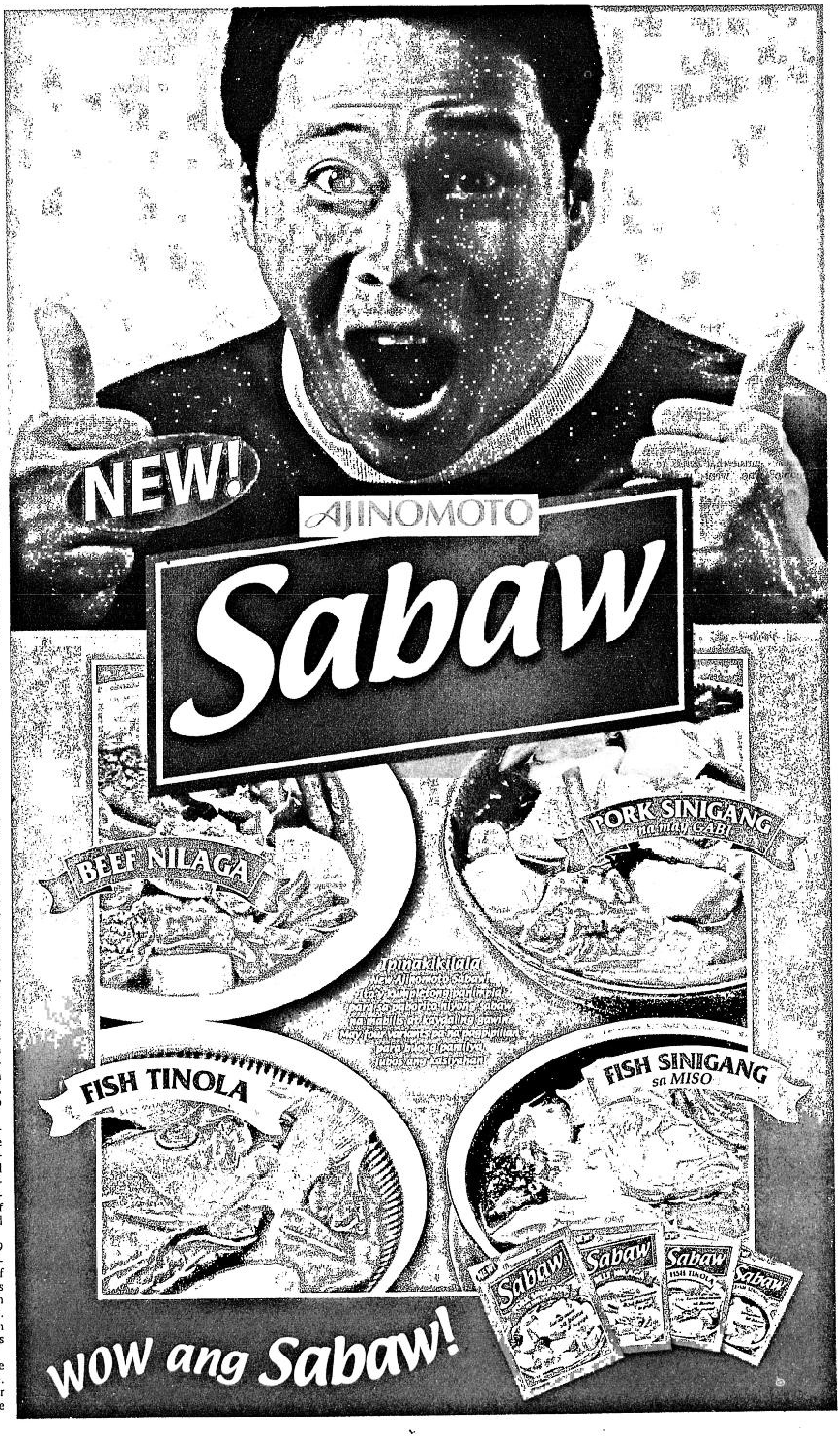
"When they are argue, they would say the same thing and would want to prove the same point. I'm glad that Paolo has the openness to talk out of it."

With Gary's achievements as a performing artist, it is inevitable for his kids to be compared to him. "I tell them, especially Paolo and Gab, that they don't have to be like me," he stresses. "I don't mind people teasing me that Gab has become a better dancer. I'll worry if he tries to dance like me and he doesn't do well."

"What's irritating," Angeli interjects, "is when people put malice into it. That could destroy families if they try to compete one member against each other. Where did the genes come from, anyway?"

As a celebrity family, the couple agrees that they should set a good example to other families.

"I take the popularity very seriously," says Angeli. "Popularity and fame should partner with social responsibility to your audiences."



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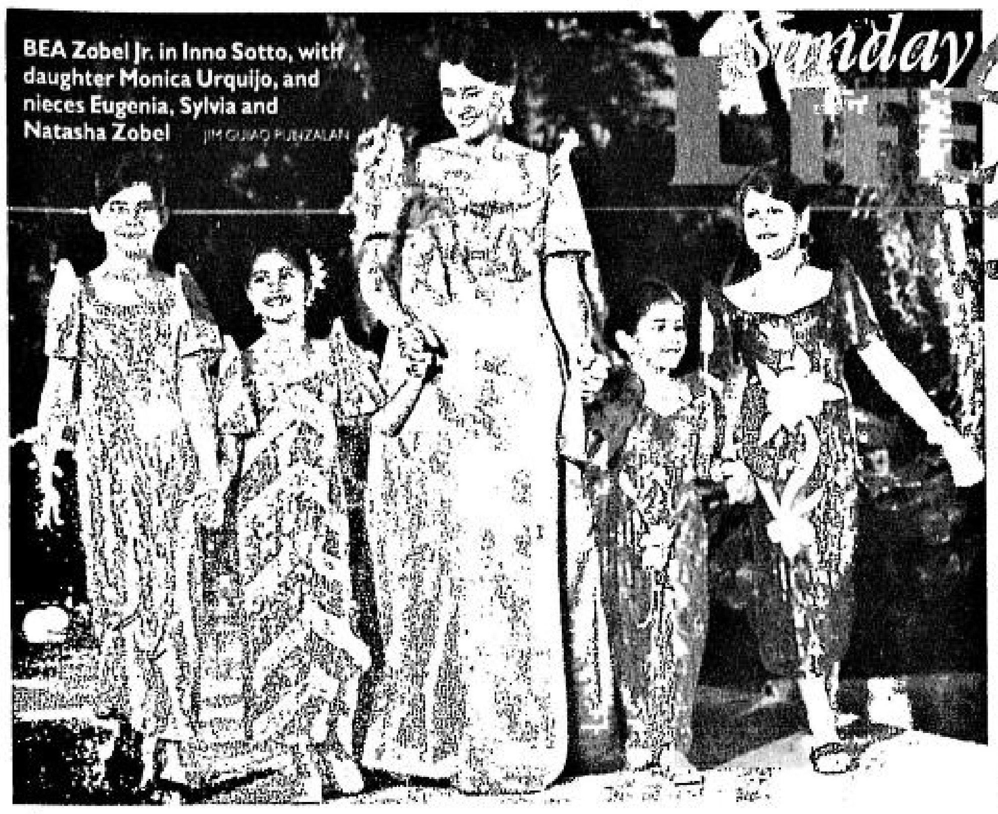

**BEA** Zobel Jr. in Inno Sotto, with daughter Monica Urquijo, and nieces Eugenia, Sylvia and Natasha Zobel JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

## IN THIS ISSUE

How to be President by really trying /F1
R&R in summer wear /J1

# Once more the terno

BEA Zobel Jr. definitely has a terno hangover.

For its fundraiser this year to benefit the Elsie Gaches Village and Buklod Pabahay, the 83-year-old Catholic Women's Club (CWC) presented a parade of ternos worn by members and friends of the CWC and their families.

And who might the chair be for this terno thriller? You guessed it—Bea Jr., the same moving force behind the terno exhibit and terno ball at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

But it wasn't really Bea Jr.'s idea to have another terno extravaganza. It was her mom's. The senior Bea, a CWC adviser and member along with Imelda Cojuangco, asked Junior to chair this year's fundraising festivities.

Now if you're a dutiful daughter, would you say no? And if you're gung-ho about moving the terno forward both as a fashion statement and income generator for beaders, embroiderers and sewers, would you not grab at this chance?

And so Bea Jr. and her friends made plans and indeed produced

ONCE/ D2

**LISA** Macuja-Elizalde with Missy and Manuel, all in Auggie Cordero

**CARRIE** Bautista with Mara and Alexi Bautista and Claudia Olivares in Patis Tesoro

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| toxic | Toxic | Britney Spears |
| rockyour | Rock Your Body | Justine Timberlake |
| crazyinluv | Crazy in love | Beyonce Knowles |
| eatualive | Eat You Alive | Limp Bizkit |
| beauti | Beautiful | Snoop Dogg ft Pharell |
| bewyou | Be With You | Atomic Kitten |
| heal | Heal | Westlife |
| addicted | Addicted | Simple Plan |
| breath | Breathe | Michelle Branch |
| happy | Happy | Alexia |
| sendyou | Send Your Love | Sting |
| 100years | 100 Years | Five For Fighting |
| sofaraway | So Far Away | Staind |
| moretoli | More To Life | Stacie Orrico |
| canwestil | Can We Still Be Friends | Mandy Moore |
| thoia | Thoia Thoing | R. Kelly |
| ibelong | Somewhere I Belong | Linkin Park |
| intheend | In the End | Linkin Park |
| numb | Numb | Linkin Park |
| rockwitu | Rock Wit U (Awww Baby) | Ashanti |
| kanlungan | Kanlungan | Noel Cabangon |
| mrsuave | Mr. Suave | Parokya ni Edgar |
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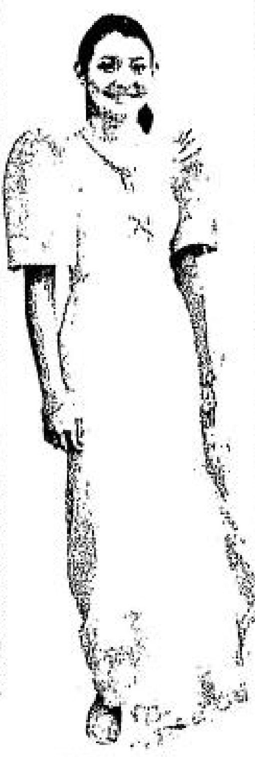


PIA Moras in Malu Bayot

FORTUNE Ledesma in Pitoy Moreno

CHA CHA Camacho in vintage terno

KIM Lokin in Paul Cabral, Nini Layug in Rajo Laurel and Tereret Liboro in Michi Calica

FE Rodriguez and Marie Fay Garcia in Pepito Albert with Sasha and Yana Garcia

MARILOU Batchelor in a vintage terno, with James and William in Malu Veloso

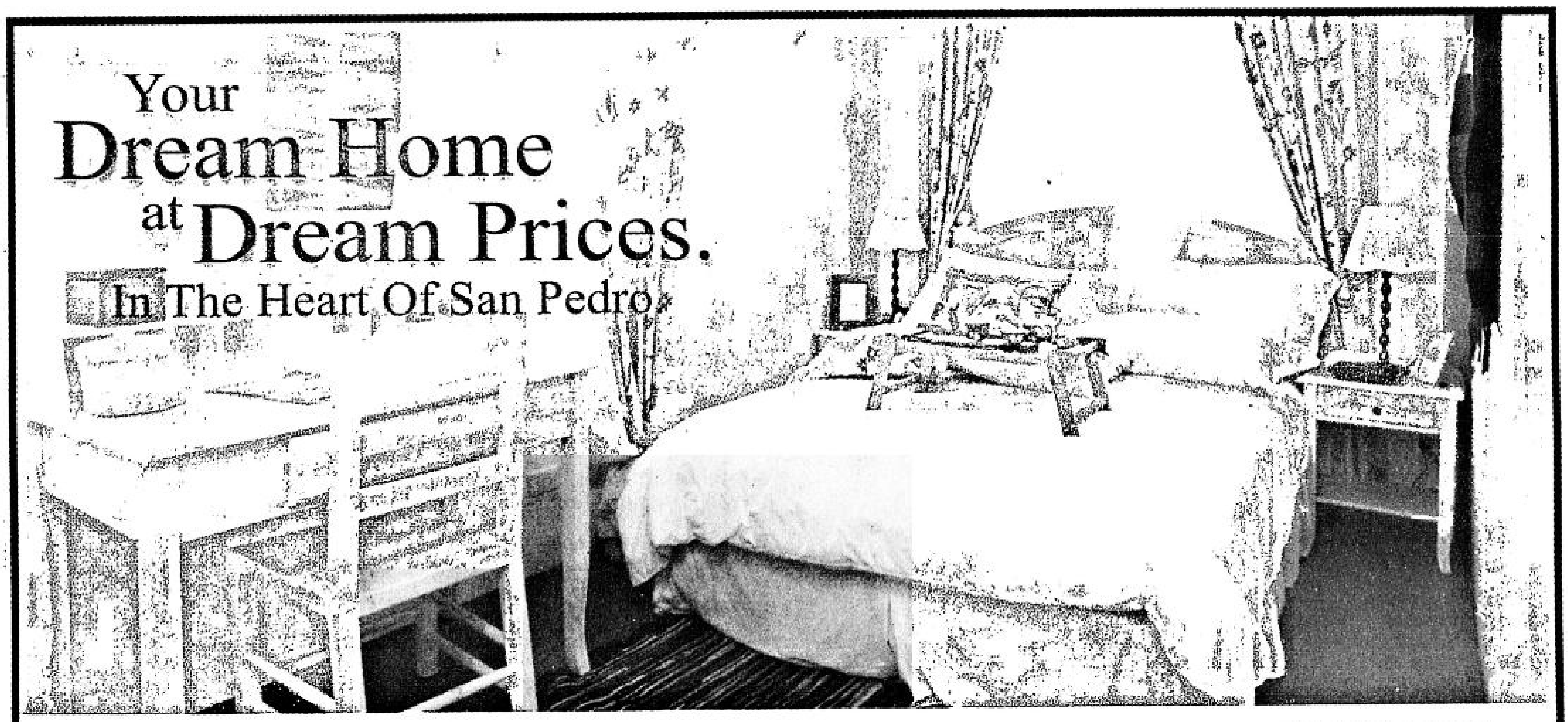
SIGALIT Djemal in Lulu Tan-Gan with daughter

# Once mo

From page D1

a fashion show of ternos, with members and friends of the CWC as models. No paid mannequins walked the makeshift ramp. Mothers walked the runway with their kids, the girls in ternos and the boys in barongs. It was delightful to see three generations of females in one family wearing the terno.

The traditional presentation, billed as



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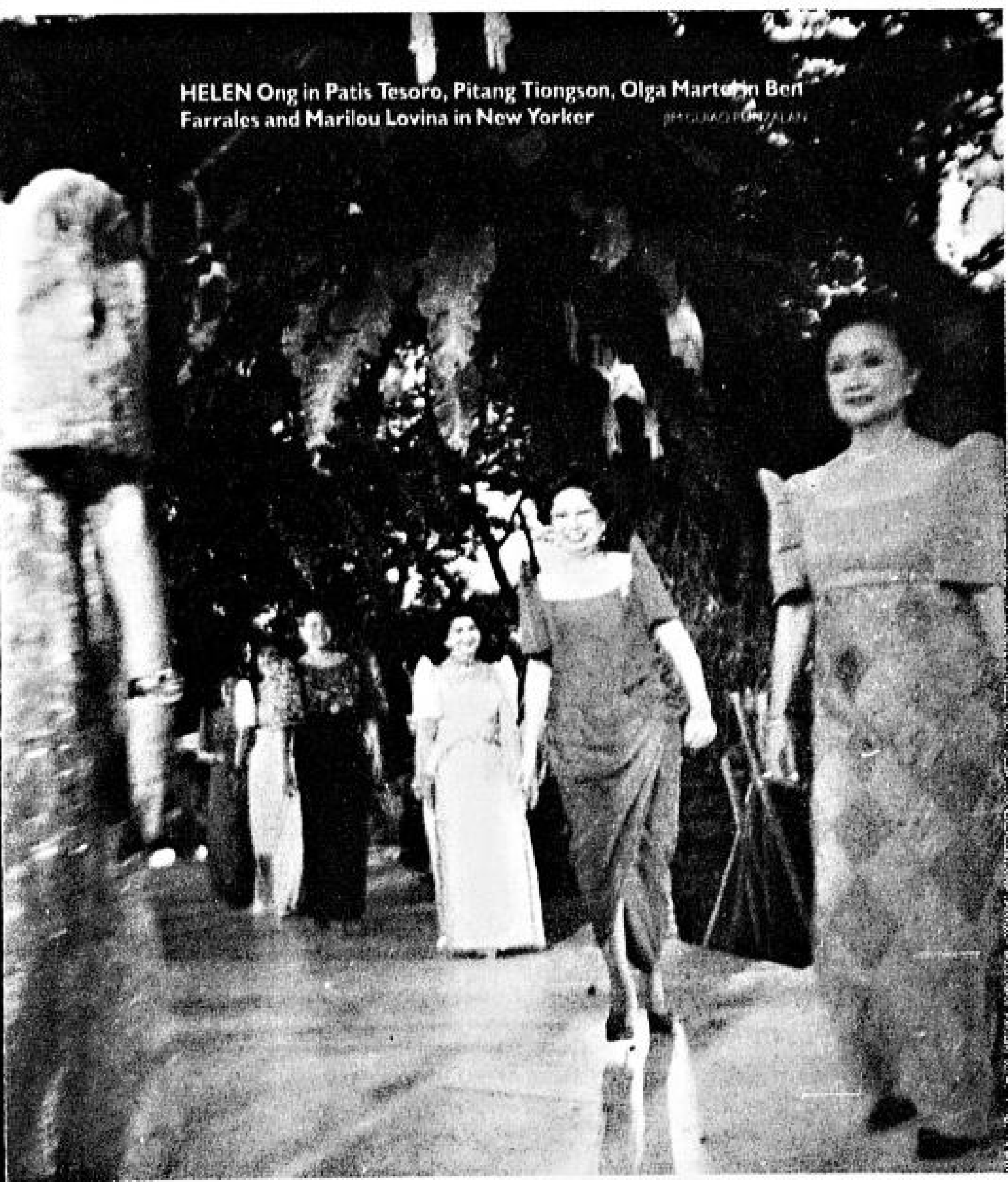

HELEN Ong in Patis Tesoro, Pitang Tiongson, Olga Martel in Ben Farrales and Marilou Lovina in New Yorker

KITTY and Bambina Jacinto in Rajo Laurel

PAMEN Elizalde, in Pitoy Moreno, with daughters-in-law Sofia Elizalde and Marilen Elizalde in Inno Sotto

# re the terno

pon ng Pamana," was held in the garden he Zobels' Forbes Park home, in the heart which was a giant tree festooned with a nber of white *parols*. Tables were topped h woven runners and chairs, covered with *ig* seat covers. Via Mare served a *merienda* of *pandesal* with *kesong puti*, *bibingka*, *ıbok* ravioli and native fruits.

or love and friendship, as well as belief in ood cause, Bea Jr.'s friends helped out as models or in the production (Ino Manalo, Ariel Lozada, Patrick Rosas, Dennis Lustico, Jojie Lloren, Romina Urra and RJ Ledesma, who emceed), or served in the steering committee (Karen Santos and Anne Marie Saguil, among them).

More than 500 guests attended the very traditional festivities highlighted by the auctioning off of a Betsy Westendorp painting to sweeten the pot.

BELEN Hidalgo in Malu Veloso and CWC president Alice Briones in Pitoy Moreno

ANNE Marie Saguil with Sophia, in Jojie Lloren

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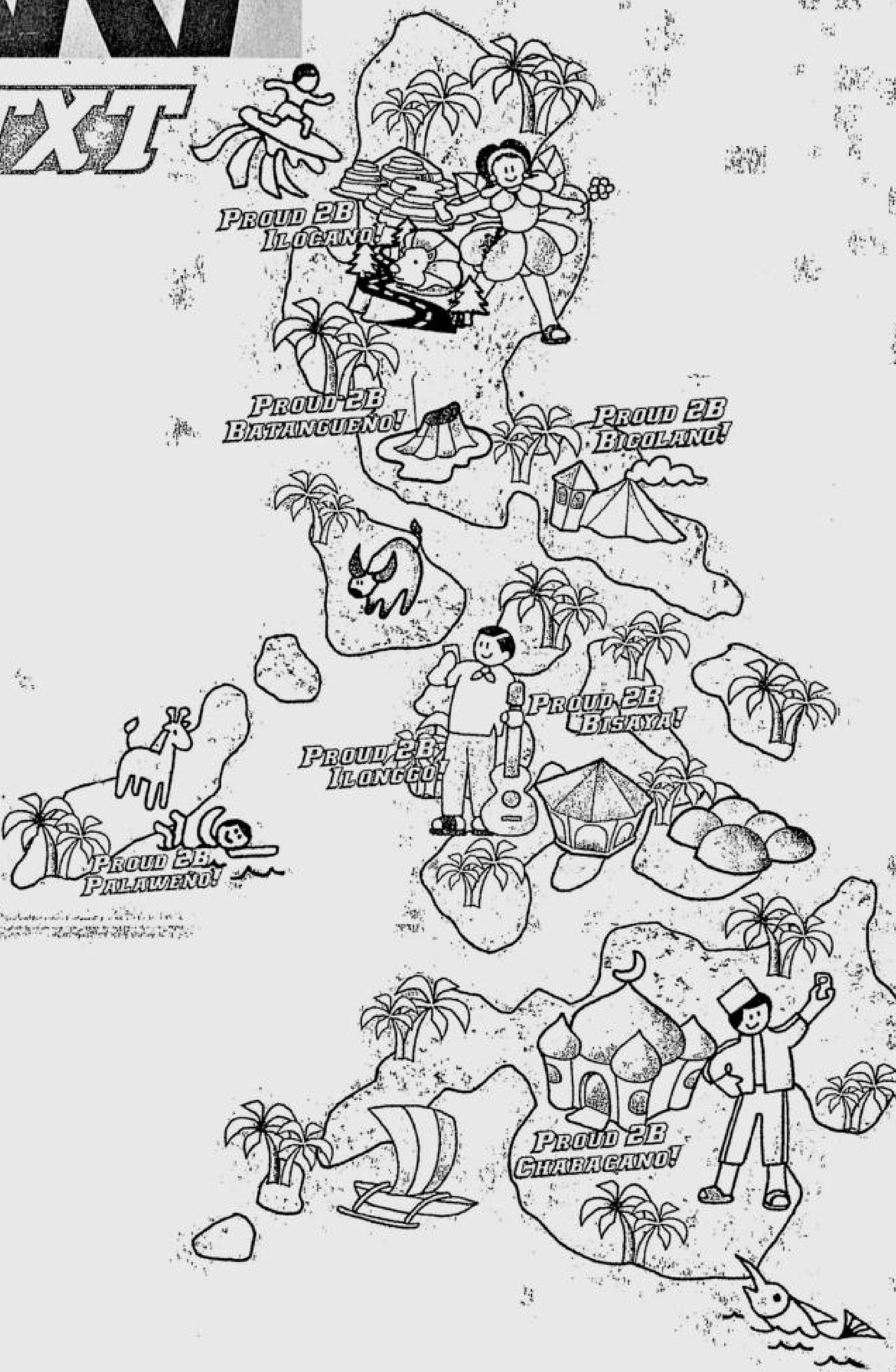
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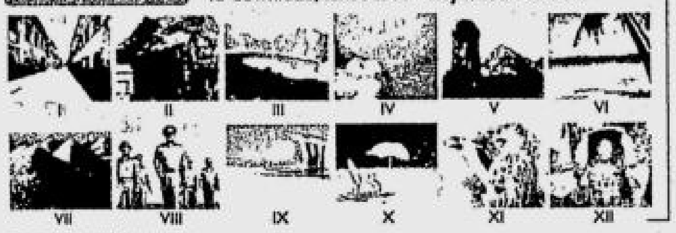

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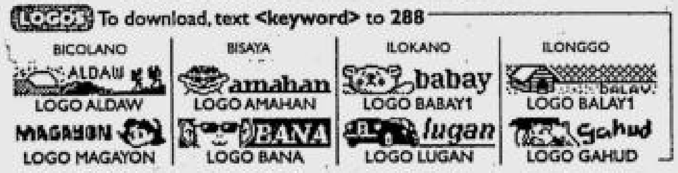

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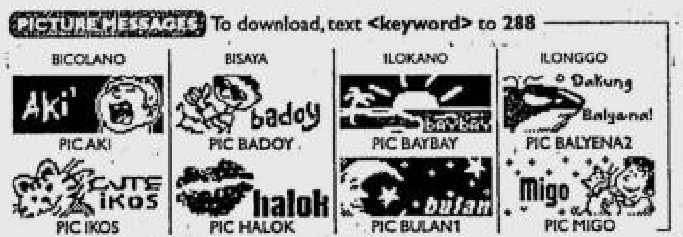

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# Romantic evening with young tenor

**DIPLOMATIC SWIRL**

*By Amiga*

DISPLAYING a rich and powerful voice, young Belgian tenor **Bartholomeus de Kegel** sang at a recital at the elegant residence of Belgian Ambassador **Chris** and Mme. **Gul Tanghe.**

The clear melodic voice was perfectly suited to the repertoire of predominantly love songs by Schumann and Schubert. There were also pieces by Belgian Joseph Ryelandt and songs by Italian Tosti at the opening and closing of the program.

Concert pianist **Jonathan Coo** assisted the artist in two solo pieces, Schumann's "Dedication" and "In the Night."

## 'Despedidas'

While Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland** was hosting a *despedida* reception for Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs **Heather Forton**, French Ambassador **Renée Veyret** was likewise bidding farewell to popular and well-liked couple Agence France Presse bureau chief **P. Parameswaran** and his wife, **Indra**, at her residence. (The couture-gowned ambassador says her European-style villa is haunted, though she always asks the friendly female spirit to take care of it).

While Param heads for his agency's Washington DC office, Heather is temporarily taking a break from diplomatic chores to live in Orange County where her husband is posted.

## Benefit for SOS

In cooperation with Primex Printers Inc., Metrobank Foundation Inc., Mandarin Oriental, Rauch Nativa Green Tea and Happy Day Juices, Austrian Ambassador **Christian** and **Irmgard Krepela** held a reception for an exhibit of close to 50 art pieces by young Filipino artists for the benefit of the SOS (Save Our Souls) Children's Villages in the Philippines under the patronage of **Washington Sycip.**

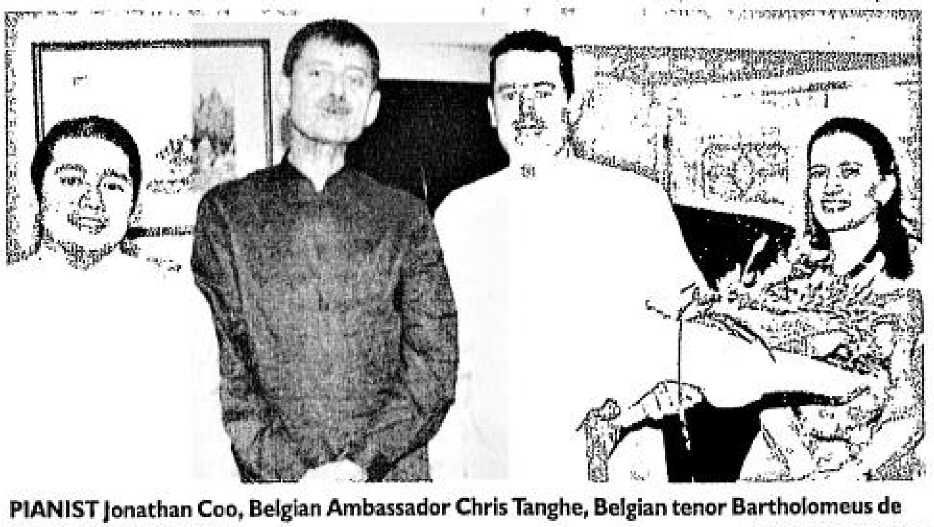
It was truly heartwarming to see the generosity of people who reached out and helped the less fortunate children so they could have the education and care they needed to help them succeed in life.

Patrons of the arts, the Krepelas display on the walls of their residence the works of both European and Filipino artists, including those who participated in the exhibit.

## Chevening scholarship

British Ambassador **Paul** and Mme. **Carolyn Dimond** hosted a reception at their residence for the 2004 Chevening Scholarship Awards. The British ambassador also presented Certificates of Recognition to last year's scholars in International Human Rights Law, Broadcast Journalism, Environment and Development, Demography and Health, Child Law and Policy.

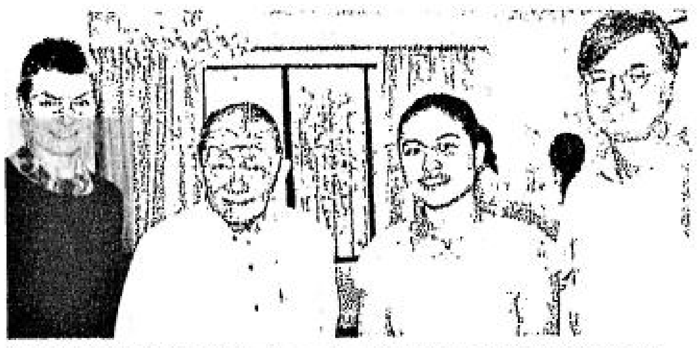
Each year, selected Filipinos get the opportunity to join over 2,500 other new scholars from all parts of the globe who study in the United Kingdom.



**PIANIST** Jonathan Coo, Belgian Ambassador Chris Tanghe, Belgian tenor Bartholomeus de Kegel and Gul Tanghe

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

**LOUIS**-Paul Heusaff, founder of SOS Phils., French Ambassador Renée Veyret and Louie Vergeon, GM of Air France Phils.



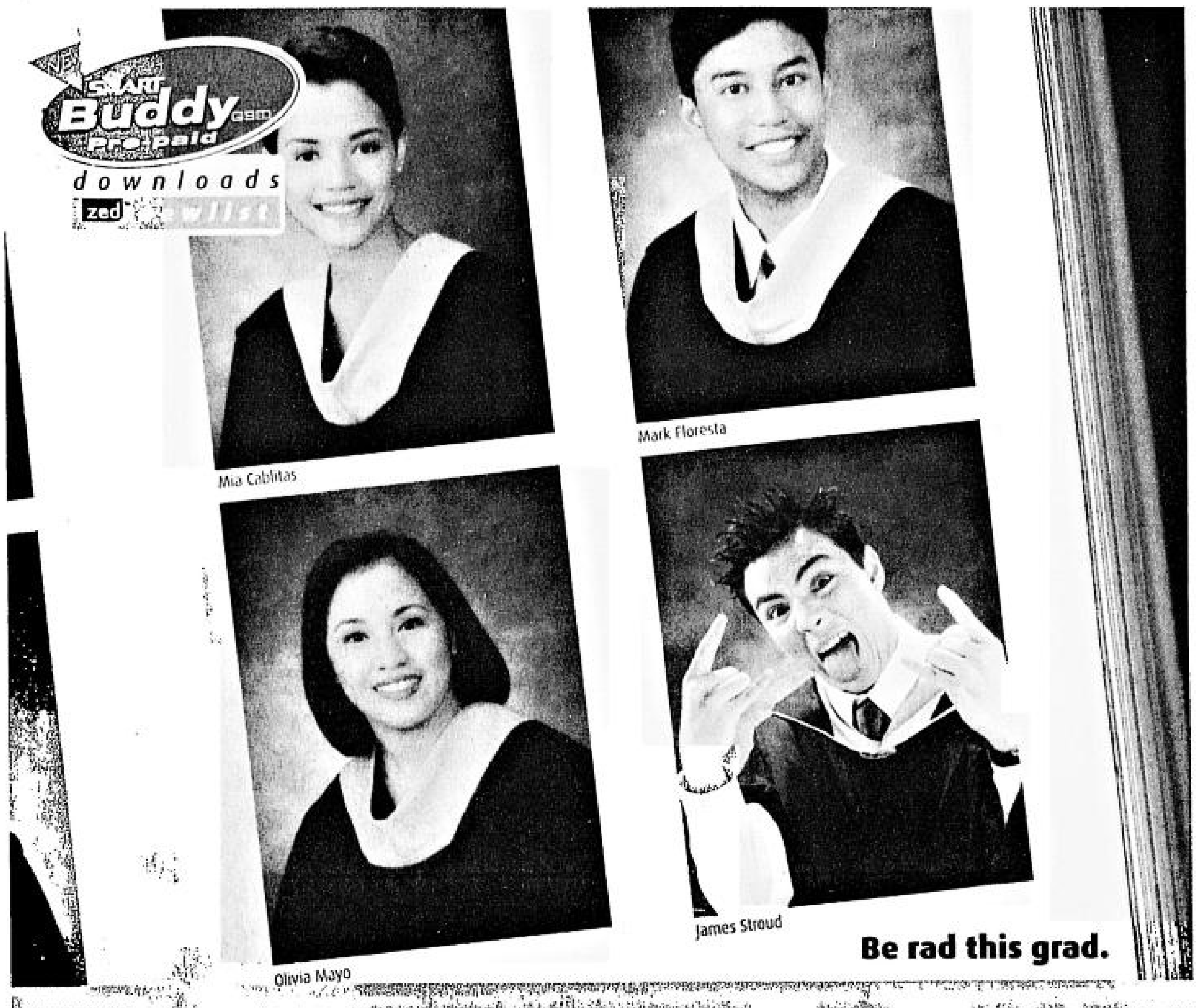
**AMBASSADOR** Christian Krepela and wife Irmgard flank business titan Washington Sycip and artist Leah Lim.

**CCP'S** Irene Rada, AIM's Bobby de Ocampo, British council director Gill Westaway and British Ambassador Paul Dimond

**HEATHER** Forton

**CANADIAN** Ambassador Peter Sutherland

**SINGAPORE** Ambassador Lim Kheng Hwa and Ana Sobrepeña of Metrobank



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| Ringtones | Artist/Composer | Keywords |
|---|---|---|
| Farewell To You My Friends | *Raymond Lauchengco* | TONE FAREWELL |
| Growing Up | *Gary Valenciano* | TONE GROWING |
| High School | *Sharon Cuneta* | TONE HIGHSKUL |
| Friend Of Mine | *Kuh Ledesma* | TONE FRIENDOF |
| Next In Line | *After Image* | TONE NXTINLINE |
| Saan Na Nga Bang Barkada Ngayon | *Apo Hiking Society* | TONE SANBARKADA |
| Awit Ng Kabataan | *Rivermaya* | TONE KABATAAN |
| Tuloy Pa Rin Ako | *Side A/Lobuyo* | TONE TULOYPA |
| Kahit Na | *Bridge* | TONE KAHIT |
| [illegible] You Going | *Dave Matthews Band* | TONE WHRUGOING |

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| LOGO ILYFLOW | LOGO PAMELAWAN | LOGO SHYLOVE | LOGO ANIMELUV | LOGO GOODL |
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# Christ's resurrection makes all things new

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Darang*

WHEN I saw a preview of the movie "The Passion of the Christ," the scene with Jesus and His Mother filled me with new hope and at the same time sadness. The mother tells her Son, whose face was bloodied from so many beatings, "I am here." Jesus replies, "Mother, I will make all things new."

This was to assure His mother and all of humankind that His death was not the end. His resurrection would bring light after the darkness. Christ's resurrection would "make all things new," with the Holy Spirit giving "new hearts and a new spirit."

The movie is a reminder of how sin offends God; of how He suffered for us. It is violent in a way because it shows how Christ truly suffered for our sins. I left the theater feeling I should think twice before committing sin again.

Everyone should see the film, especially this Lenten season. It will help us reflect on how we need to change our lives so we would please God.

The film will be shown March 31.

## The last 12 hours

The "Passion of the Christ" is about the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. It opens in the Garden of Olives (Gethsemane) where Jesus has gone to pray after the Last Supper and where He resists Satan's temptations.

Betrayed by Judas Escariot, He is arrested and brought back to Jerusalem where the Pharisees accuse Him of blasphemy and is sentenced to death.

Jesus is brought to Pilate, the Roman governor of Palestine, who listens to the accusations against Him. Pilate decides to defer to King Herod in the matter, but Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate. The Roman governor lets the crowd choose between Jesus and the criminal Barabbas. Barabbas is set free.

Jesus is handed over to the Roman soldiers and whipped then brought back to Pilate, who presents him to the crowd again that demands His death. Pilate, washing his hands off the whole thing, orders his men to do as the crowd wishes.

Jesus is ordered to carry a cross through the streets of Jerusalem all the way up to Golgotha, where He is nailed to the cross. He faces His last temptation—the fear that He has been abandoned by His Father.

He overcomes his fear, looks at Mary, and tells her, "It is accomplished." He cries out, "Into Thy hands I commend my Spirit," then dies.

## Prayer rally in Amsterdam

Ida Peerdam saw the first apparition of Mary as Our Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam on March 25, 1845. Thus began the first in a series of 56 apparitions over 14 years that became known as the "Messages of Our Lady of All Nations."

Our Lady warned of catastrophes. Many of these prophecies have come true.

To unite all nations in prayer, the bishop of Harleem has invited pilgrims to Amsterdam. The 7th International Prayer Rally will be held May 30. For Filipinos wanting to participate, World's Wonders is organizing a trip to Europe, including Amsterdam. Departure is May 18. Other places to be visited are Lisbon, Fatima, Burgos, Lourdes, La Salette, Paray Le Monial, Nevers, Liseux and Paris. Call 7266162 or fax 7266147.

## Dutch parish for Filipino?

Fr. Romuald Zantua, who belongs to the Disciples of Hope and who might get a parish in Amsterdam, describes the chapel of the Our Lady of All Nations.

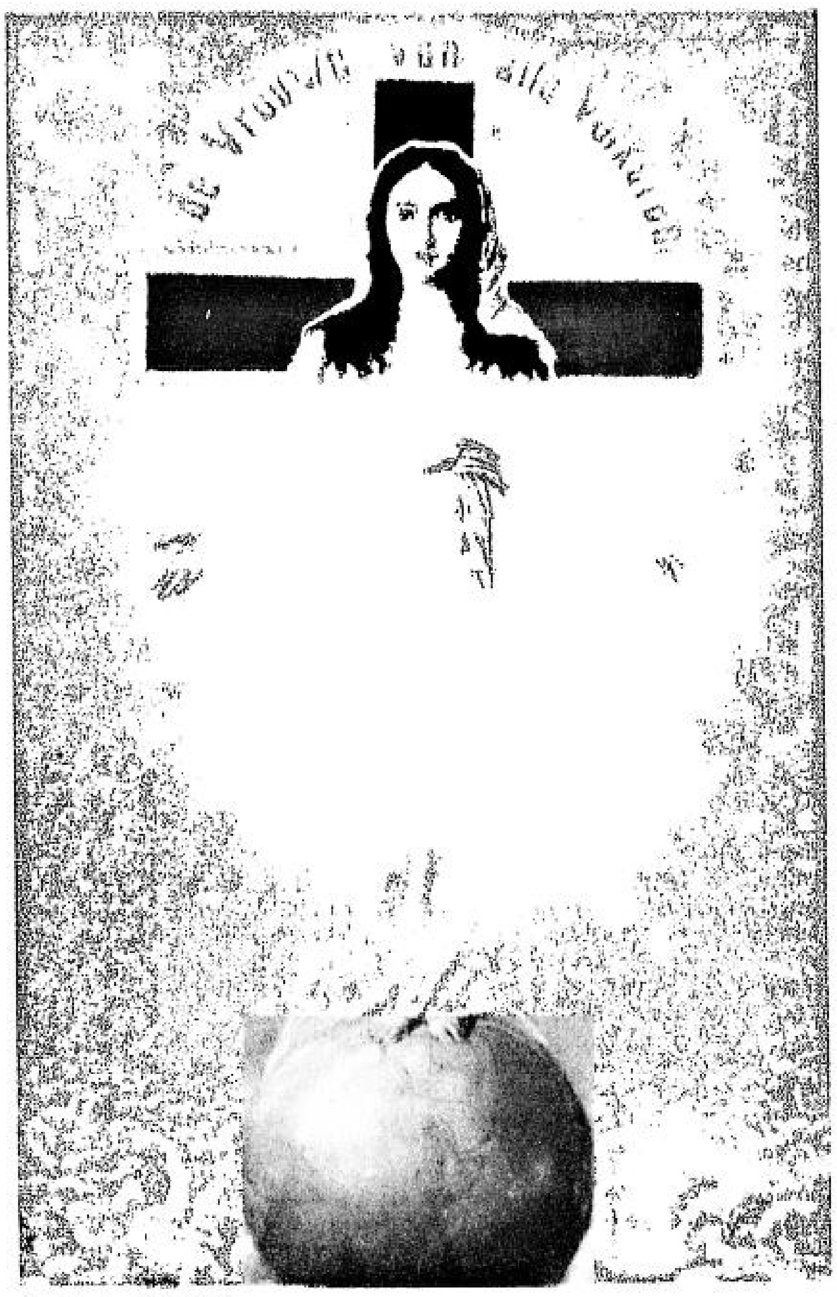
"What first impressed me about the chapel dedicated to the Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam was the number of hours it was open to the public. It is open for religious services six hours on weekdays and seven hours on Sundays, an almost rare happening in the western world today.

"In America, churches are generally closed after Mass. In many countries in Europe, it is not easy to find a well-attended Mass even on Sundays. A pilgrim... would find it difficult to attend Mass in the great basilicas, because they are used more as museums than houses of prayer... If not for the 'adoration chapels' sometimes added to the structure of today's churches, the faithful would not be able to pray at all in the traditional houses of prayer.

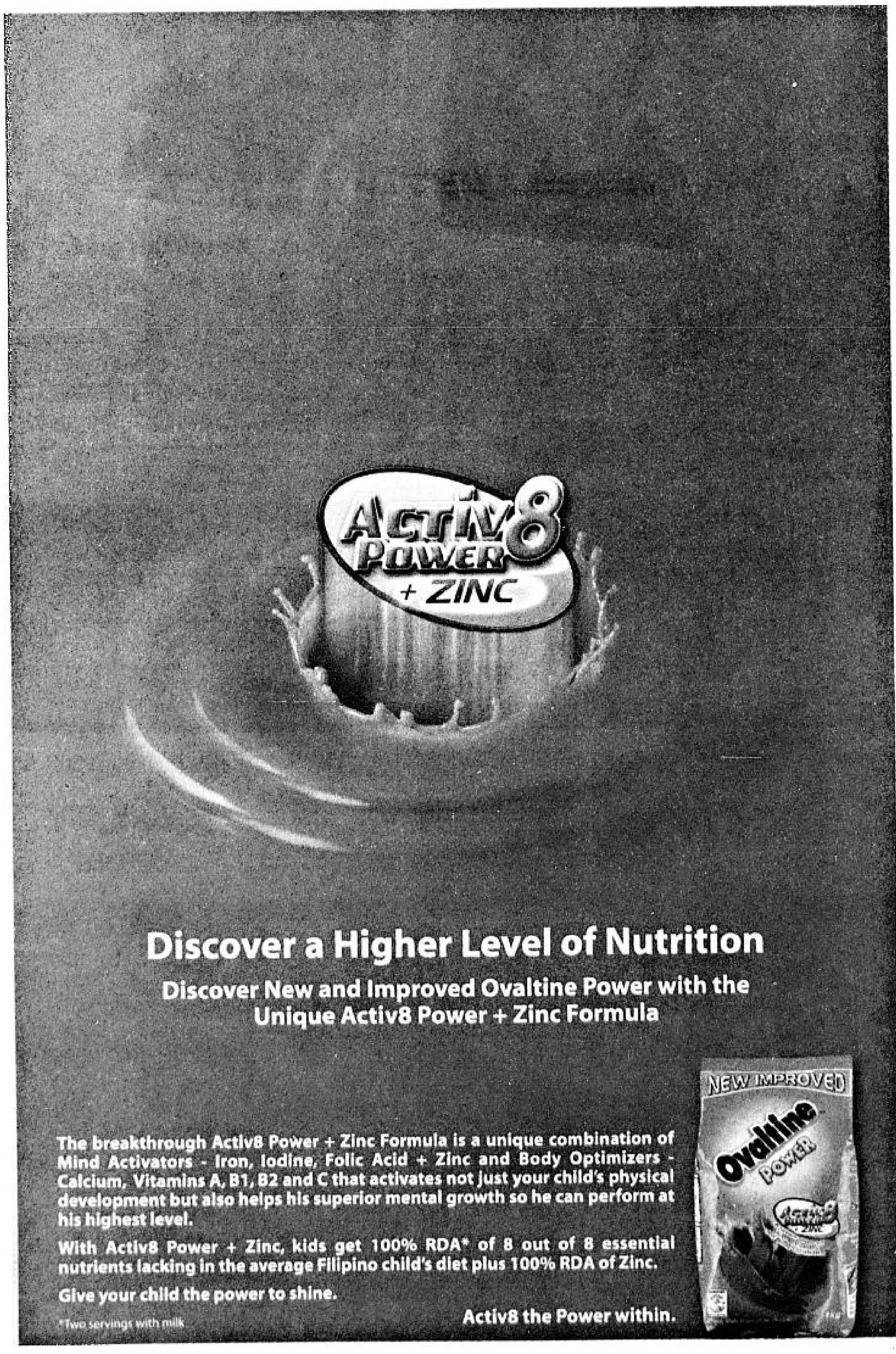
"But the chapel of the Lady of All Nations, at least during the brief time I was there, was always filled to capacity. It is conveniently located near the south exit of the Amsterdam train station, which is only a 10-minute walk to the chapel. From the airport to the train station is only a 15-minute ride."

Why the Mother of God chose Amsterdam to reveal herself as the Lady of All Nations is not at all surprising to me. As the mediatrix of all graces, she distributes all the good things God willed to share with all His children regardless of race, color, language or creed. Many nations are represented in the Netherlands.

Since Dutch is a difficult language to learn, the Lady of All Nations speaks to all peoples of the world in the universal language of the human heart. She is not the lady of this or that country, but of "all nations," calling everyone to pray and work for peace.



OUR Lady of All Nations



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Kids will be kids and like any adult, they are also what they eat. Nowadays, moms are faced with the challenge of providing and establishing the right dietary habits for their children. A difficult task especially when they are faced with finicky bundles of joy and their weird eating habits. Imagine her frustration when the child wants to eat junk food for lunch and cookies and cream ice cream for dinner. But before she gives into her child's whims, it's important for her to consider her child's nutrient requirements that will ensure proper growth and development of both body and mind.

A 1993 National Nutrition Survey showed that this diet meets less than 90% of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for energy and even lesser for the other nutrients. Another study utilized by the Department of Health pinpointed 8 essential nutrients that are deficient in the Filipino child: Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Folic Acid, Calcium, Iron and Iodine. These studies magnify the worsening malnutrition problem in the Philippines, especially among school age children.

It is therefore important for Filipino parents to know the essential nutrients they have to provide their kids, may it be from balanced diets or from nutrition-packed chocolate-powdered drinks. Finding just one great tasting drink that would fill up all the recommended dietary allowances would even be super.

This knowledge will also help in choosing the right supplement. A chocolate-powdered drink for instance, which contains the right blend where the macronutrients complement with micronutrients, would help in enhancing regulation of body processes to generate energy, promote growth, immuno-regulation, and neuroregulation; thereby, sustaining the needs for healthy body, good physical and mental performance. The following list gives the essential different vitamins and minerals and tells why they are necessary for your growing child:

1. Vitamin A that is found in milk, liver, eggs, and green leafy vegetables is responsible for the growth and repair body tissues, bone, skin, teeth, and hair. Working together with other nutrients, this Vitamin helps strengthen the immune system.

SERVING TIP: If the child is into colors and shapes, have him sample carrots, celery, and green salad cut into fun figures.

2. Vitamin C is an antioxidant found in fruits and vegetables. It aids in faster recovery from wounds, burns, and is needed for healthy gums of your child. It also helps the body absorb iron. Taken together with Vitamin E, helps reduce the risk of developing cancer later in life.

SERVING TIP: Fresh fruit shakes during snack time are not only refreshing but a lot healthier too.

3. Vitamin B1 in pork and cereals in particular is a good source of Vitamin B1 or Thiamine. It assists in blood formation, converting carbohydrates to energy, and brain function. Kids getting sufficient Vitamin B1 tend to be in cheerful and pleasant dispositions.

SERVING TIP: A cup of cereals of their choice and a slice of meat can be pleasant treat.

4. Vitamin B2 or Riboflavin is found in grain products, meat, vegetables, and dairy goods. It is essential for healthy red blood cell formation, antibody production, and helps in the metabolism of all foods. And together with Vitamin A aids maintain normal vision.

SERVING TIP: Cereals and milk mixed with nuts and raisins is a great way to start your child's play.

5. Iron found in liver, meat, fish, and poultry is part of hemoglobin, the oxygen carrying component of the blood. Vitamin C, aids in its absorption. Kids getting the right amount of iron in their diet are more energetic and their skin has a healthy pinkish glow.

SERVING TIP: Put some green leafy vegetables into meat and liver sandwiches with tomatoes.

6. Folic acid that is also found in fruits, dark-green leafy vegetables, dried beans and peas, functions as a coenzyme that is necessary for cell growth and division. This nutrient also promotes healthier hair and nails.

SERVING TIP: Serve fruit slices in place or along with some cheese balls during snack time.

7. Calcium is needed for muscle growth and is critical for bone growth and bone development in children. The best sources of calcium are dairy products followed by vegetables and is needed for strong bones and teeth. Kids getting the right amount of calcium in their diet are at a lesser risk of getting osteoporosis in the future.

SERVING TIP: Warm milk before bedtime also helps the child fall asleep faster.

8. Iodine. Aside from iodized salt, sources of iodine include seafood, and vegetables. Commercially prepared baked goods, such as cakes and breads, frequently contain dough conditioners that have iodine. A trace amount of iodine is important for a healthy thyroid gland and prevention of goiter. Iodine is essential for the proper development brain and body coordination in young children.

SERVING TIP: Add a dash of iodized oil or salt to tuna sandwich fillings for more exciting treats.

Paying attention to a child's nutritional needs as early as now can spell a great difference to his future. In the meantime, finding more creative ways to serve the right food can be just as fun to the mum and the child at the same time.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Bazaar benefits poor families

SHOP for a cause at this year's French-Filipino NGO bazaar on March 25-28 at the 2/L Activity Center, SM Megamall.

Organized by the Embassy of France, with Alliance Française and SM Foundation, the event will be formally opened by French Ambassador Renée Veyret and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman on March 25, 12 nn.

Actress Pinky Amador will host the opening program.

Proceeds of the bazaar will go to the beneficiaries of 17 French-Filipino nongovernment organizations.

On sale are Filipino and French products like garments and accessories, leather goods, furniture, native delicacies, Easter eggs, paintings, toys, silk from Cambodia and Vietnam, and home-made French cakes.

Other activities lined up include cooking demonstrations, entertaining educational activities for kids, and performances.

Robert Alejandro or *Kuya* Robert of the television program "Art is Kool" will conduct an art workshop for kids on March 27, 2 p.m. Also scheduled on March 27, 4 p.m., and March 28, 2 and 4 p.m., are dances, songs and theatrical performances.

The event is made possible through the SM Foundation, Danex Signs, Veolia Water, Tollways Management Corp., Alcatel, Europe Continents and Asiatype.

# Family's culinary traditions shape restaurant

## Baguio's pioneering Café by the Ruins turns sweet 16 this month

**By Karla P. Delgado**
*Contributor*

IN THE KITCHEN hang chopping boards and baskets of potatoes, red onions and garlic. Baskets and backpacks woven by the women of the Cordilleras sit next to the pots and pans. At a working table, Laida Lim cleans the leaves of *kanumay* spinach.

An open door leads to the driveway where Lim's youngest daughter Felice walks barefoot on the asphalt. A framed photograph of Lim's mother, the former Gloria Mapua, graces the kitchen; below it, a baby picture of Lim's first-born, Padmapani.

In this house, womanhood occupies the highest place of honor, the bonds between mothers and daughters celebrated in all corners, but most visibly in the kitchen.

This was the summer home of Laida's grandmother, Pilar Hidalgo Lim, a suffragist and educator (and president of Centro Escolar University) who valued good food as much as education.

Five generations later, her *nilagang inahin* (culled hen) is still prepared by her descendants, the goodness of the fatty chicken broth a source of comfort, the unborn eggs inside the hen prized for their creamy yolks, savored with an extra dark, pungent *patis* from Cavite which Lim's sister Pia likens to "extra virgin olive oil—*unang tulo*, first drip."

The joy of eating comes from both sides of the family—the Mapuas love to eat as much as the Lims.

Laida's maternal grandmother, Rita Mapua, was an excellent cook who taught her daughters and daughters-in-law how to make salsa *mongha*, a delicious spread of olives, tomatoes and bread drenched in olive oil; and *pochero*, with chunks of *chorizo*, chicken, potatoes and bananas.

Like other Filipino families, the Mapua-Lims like their *pochero* with vinegared *inihaw na talong* on the side, but they have their own tradition of enjoying the stew with generous dollops of mayonnaise.

"I always loved cooking, even when I was a kid," says Lim. "I used to cook Sunday lunches when I was 15 or 16 years old."

A resident of Baguio since 1973, she created the menu for Baguio's popular Café by the Ruins. The café, which will mark its 16th year on March 23, specializes in freshly baked bread, drinks and dishes made with fresh ingredients from the Baguio market.

Not to be missed are the *kamote* bread with homemade fish roe paté, Strawberry Soda made with slices of fresh strawberries and homemade strawberry syrup, Forest Stream Soup of shiitake mushrooms and watercress, mountain greens with upland dressing, daily specials served with red mountain rice, and, of course, the famous Lola Pilar sandwiches—savory mounds of ground beef and raisins stuffed into toasted and buttered *pan de sal*.

Lim recalls that in the '70s, when she taught art at the University of the Philippines Baguio High School, P500 was enough to fill a basket at the market. "Now it takes a couple of thousands," she says.

### 'Religious' vegetable

On this sunny morning, lunch will consist of baked *lapu lapu*, *kanumay* spinach with century egg and tofu with "Born Again" cabbage.

"When they harvest the big round cabbages, these come out," she says, explaining the origins of the vegetable's charming name. "It tastes like cabbage, but more nutty."

She sautées tofu cubes, onion leeks and ginger in a hoisin sauce for the "Born Again" sprouts. For the *lapu lapu*, she mixes extra virgin olive oil, vinegar and assorted spices from a bottle "found at an open market in Paris."

After pouring the vinaigrette into the gills and over the body of the fish, she places it in the oven, covered in sliced tomatoes and onions, and leaves it at high heat for 20 minutes. She prepares a nest of the *kanumay* spinach sautéed with garlic, a bit of soy and a sprinkle of sesame oil for the century egg.

Lunch is served al fresco, at a table surrounded by towering pine trees and flowering vines. Felice, whom everyone calls "Fifi," carries a bowl of red mountain rice to the table.

Also at the table are Solana, Lim's granddaughter; Pinay, a college student who shares their home; and Tan Tan, the daughter of Laida's good friend Christine Arvisu, who manages the café.

Each bite of Lim's *lapu lapu* is delicate and juicy, the natural flavors brought out by the precious herbs from Paris. The "Born Again" cabbage has chewy bits of tofu and onion leeks drenched in sweet hoisin and strips of coarsely cut ginger.

The *kanumay* spinach contrasts nicely with the creamy, gelatinous century egg.

Over dessert of mangosteen and *castañas*, the conversation turns to Lola Laida's cooking. Solana's favorite is her grandmother's spaghetti with avocado sauce.

Tan Tan goes for the Beehive Macaroni and Cheese, macaroni and cheese cooked in a mould and slathered with a sauce of paté, cheddar cheese, Vienna sausage, ham and tomato.

Pinay favors the mushroom risotto and chicken cooked with grapes in a cream sauce. Fifi says it's the homemade *ube*. She dashes to the kitchen and returns with the heavenly tasting *ube* made with fresh butter.

A few years ago, the "Café Girls," as they are called, talked their mothers out of closing down the café. They wanted to inherit its traditions and run it when they were old enough.

After the home-cooked meal, it is sheer pleasure to sip Benguet brew and breathe fresh mountain air, surrounded by the love of food that binds these women.

*Café by the Ruins celebrates its 16th anniversary with the Baguio premiere of "Showman Shaman," a documentary by Rica Concepcion and Egay Navarro about the late Baguio artist Roberto Villanueva, one of the café's founders. The screening will follow a Mass at 3 p.m. and a thanksgiving cañao.*

**LUNCH (right) is made by Laida Lim (above) from fresh ingredients, and is then served al fresco in her home.**

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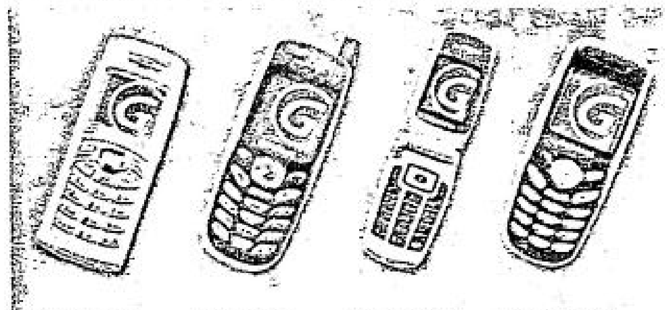

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# So you want to be President?

Lights, camera . . . speech! And there they go, five hopefuls pitching to become the country's most powerful celebrity. We asked four experts to size up the candidates' grooming, fashion sense, public speaking and projection skills—and to give makeover tips where needed. After all, in this country, nobody wins an election entirely on smarts

## Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

**Reyes:** She comes across as a woman with balls, not like Cory who was the compassionate *nanay*, though also stern if need be.

While she certainly projects firmness, what works against GMA is her being *mataray*. She basically talks down to people. She has this intonation that says, "I'm smart, you're dumb." It's like listening to an old-maid Math teacher—very grating. And she talks *slooowly*, as if everybody's comprehension is beneath her.

Take note that GMA represents a special case in media packaging. A lot of things have been done to make her more appealing—from *Ate* Glo to that horrible commercial where she pleads "*kailangan ko kayo*"—but her real personality always comes out. She's definitely not an actress, because she even loses her temper on-cam. Which means she's not really gonna change. That's the way she is, and people will have to take it or leave it.

**Arenas:** She may be diminutive, but everyone knows that she's feisty. She should continue to project such an image whenever the occasion calls for it. At the same time, she should smile more often, especially while pumping flesh.

**Ramos:** The makeover Joanne Zapanta-Andrada did to her from a short, undistinguished-looking politician to a lean and mean working president, is remarkable.

It's wise for someone as petite as her to stick to formula by wearing tapered and tailored clothes. Since a woman is entitled to assume different looks depending on her moods, she can also wear more feminine-looking gowns with lower necklines for evening affairs. Colorful scarves, provided they come in linear or tiny prints, can soften an otherwise structured look.

To stand out in the crowd and look younger on the campaign trail, she can wear bright colors, except canary yellow, which is the color of former President Cory Aquino, and orange, which is associated with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Whatever color she chooses, she should stick to one shade at a time. Otherwise, she runs the risk of looking shorter by getting "cut in half" due to two contrasting colors for her top and bottom. She should steer clear of prints and clothes with big or fuzzy details .

**Calayag:** Her short hair is fine but is too boxy. The cut should be a little more sophisticated or cropped—lessen the bulk to soften her look. Black is too strong so her hair needs to be a shade lighter—maybe medium brown. [Eventually] she can go for some highlights. Her skin looks tired so maybe she should try La Mer. Perhaps it's also time to try laser under-eye [treatment].

## Fernando Poe Jr.

**Reyes:** He's a bigger myth than Erap, larger than life, already part of our collective consciousness. With him, you're not competing with a human being, but with a legend.

He is often accused of mumbling his answers, *di makasagot ng tama*, etc. Well, he is a movie person, not a TV person. There is a big difference between the two. TV requires spontaneity, immediacy. But in movies, everything is scripted.

He was never groomed to be eloquent, he was groomed to be scripted. This is not to diminish his integrity, but he was never trained to be a speaker. All his life he's been interviewed by the movie press who's in awe of him. Now, he's being interviewed by a hostile press! So when FPJ goes on TV, *dun siya natatalo*.

If all he mouths are motherhood statements, well, that's because that's the script given him. He never bluffs, he never pretends to know more than he does on TV.

So how to make him more presidential? I don't know! But at least the people who dragged him into this should properly coach him. *'Wag naman nila pabayaan* for the guy to be stoned.

**Arenas:** His trademark sideburns, jeans and denim jacket are what endeared him to the masses. He shouldn't change a thing. Otherwise, he'll risk alienating his core group of supporters. Anyway, barongs and suits will do little if any to impress the upper and middle classes.

**Ramos:** Every day is one big fans' day for him as he barnstorms in his signature jeans and denim jacket. But if he wants to be taken seriously by the rest of the country, he should chuck his show-biz uniform in favor of cotton slacks and tailored shirt jacks made of cotton blend or *jusi* in ecru or dyed in his party colors.

He needs to trim down and lose the sideburns. He should start looking the part of the president—with or without the script.

**Calayag:** He should stop visiting his barber and see a good hairdresser instead. Look at those bushy sideburns; it looks fake, like a toupee. He shouldn't entirely get rid of it, but it needs a trim. His skin still looks okay. He should go for Obagi treatment.

## Panfilo Lacson

**Reyes:** Ping is the toughie in checkered shirts. But he needs to soften his image, because an aura of ruthlessness will not work in a highly matriarchal society like ours where compassion is the norm. The fact that he talks without emotions, very much like a military man, only ratifies and validates the accusations [of ruthlessness] against him.

**Arenas:** He is tall, fit and fairly good-looking. He looks good whether in a suit or his uniform checkered shirt and pair of jeans. So why is he lagging behind his rivals in terms of popularity? Part of it stems from his image as a tough, no-nonsense crime fighter. He should make an extra effort to smile more often so as not to appear stern.

**Ramos:** He's trim, fit and doesn't look his age. Best of all, he has innate fashion sense that's reflected in his choice of clothes. He manages to look dapper whether in a suit or in a checkered shirt.I caught him once giving a privilege speech and I was impressed. Not a single strand of hair out of place!

**Calayag:** His haircut is fine; just a minor re-cut or layering on the crown to lessen the bulk of hair that makes him look too preppy. He needs to visit a good optician for a more dashing and distinguished-looking eyeglass frame. Maybe he should get Botox for the laugh lines.

## Eddie Villanueva

**Reyes:** Well, *sanay na sanay na siya sa* public speaking, and certainly, if leadership qualities *ang pag-uusapan, me laban siya* because he looks and sounds like a leader—a religious leader. And what can be more difficult than bringing people to the Lord?

Charming people is obviously this man's expertise. His followers are deeply emotionally and spiritually rooted, but he represents a trend that Filipinos may not be ready for yet: religion entering politics *ng lantaran, harapan na*. I mean, it's bad enough that Cardinal Sin often waded into politics, but Bro. Eddie's candidacy is a frontier not yet ventured into: How to turn religious leadership into executive and political competence.

**Arenas:** He should lighten his eyebrows a bit or give them a little shape. They're too bushy, too harsh-looking. He should also go for wrinkle-free barong Tagalog.

**Calayag:** He should refrain from coloring his gray hair to dark black. I think he looks good and respectable as a man of God with his salt-and-pepper hair. Just look at (actor) Eddie Garcia. He should also use a shampoo that's specifically for gray hair. His face may need some peeling treatment.

## Raul Roco

**Reyes:** He projects himself as a fighter in floral shirts. He is colorful but firm, and comes across as your regular *tatay*, that's why he appeals to the youth.

He is the thinking man's candidate. His power is argument, and that is also his biggest weakness. Vis-a-vis the charisma of FPJ, *lampaso siya*. He has refused so far to turn this election into a circus.

While he has humanized himself a lot, often talking in the vernacular and visibly controlling his tendency to lecture to his listeners, they still won't work on an electorate that goes for grand gestures.

He's a family man. He has rarely involved his family in his campaign, but I think he should show the charm of his family, emphasize this aspect.

**Arenas:** He has a kind, smiling face that's weighed down by a sad pair of droopy eyebrows. Aside from the dull impression they leave on other people, those eyebrows convey weakness. Since surgery in the middle of the campaign season is out of the question, Roco should just have certain areas of his eyebrows plucked to give his face an instant "lift."

He is on the right track, however, by wearing rimless eyeglasses over a horn-rimmed pair. By wearing the right pair of glasses, he manages to look authoritative yet approachable. There's little he can do to remedy his droopy shoulders short of wearing shoulder pads under those floral shirts, which is out of the question.

**Ramos:** He should lose some weight to look more youthful and help him endure the rigors of the campaign trail. His floral shirt works both ways. On the plus side, they make him look fatherly and approachable to voters. But such a laid-back choice of attire leaves an impression that he's off duty, or worse, retired.

**Calayag:** Perfect haircut for a presidential candidate. The cut is not bad. It has mass appeal; he looks approachable. He should shift to hair gel or molding mud so his face doesn't get oily. He needs to visit a dietitian. And, please, not too much of the floral shirt. He's not from Hawaii; he's Filipino.

1

2

3

4

## Our 'presidential advisers'

1. **Joey Javier Reyes**, film director and writer-host of the upcoming Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism documentary "Papogi: The Making of Philippine Presidents"
2. **Abbygale Arenas**, image consultant, makeup artist and former model
3. **Barge Ramos**, fashion designer
4. **Henri Calayag**, owner and creative director, H Salon at Rustan's Makati

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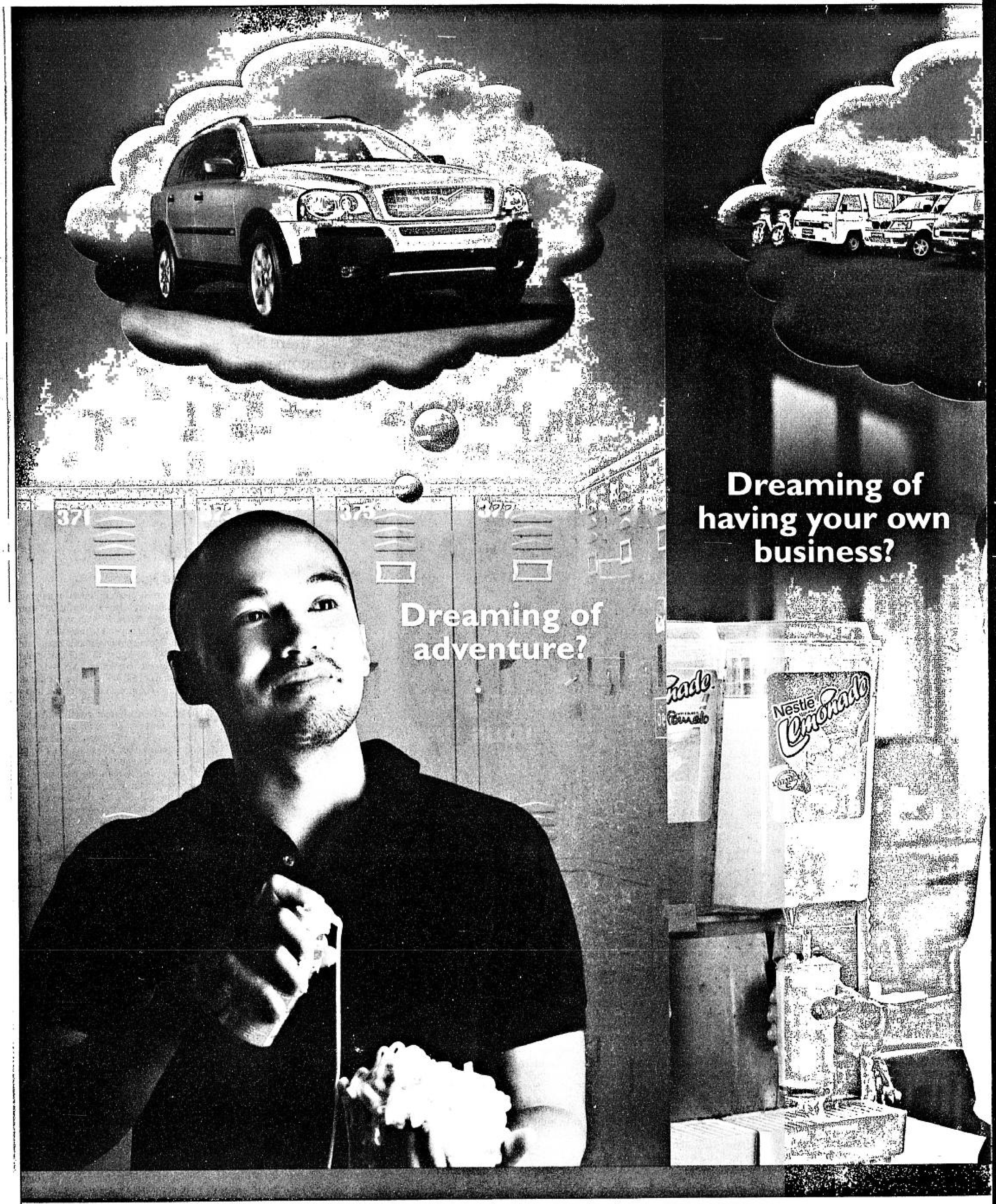
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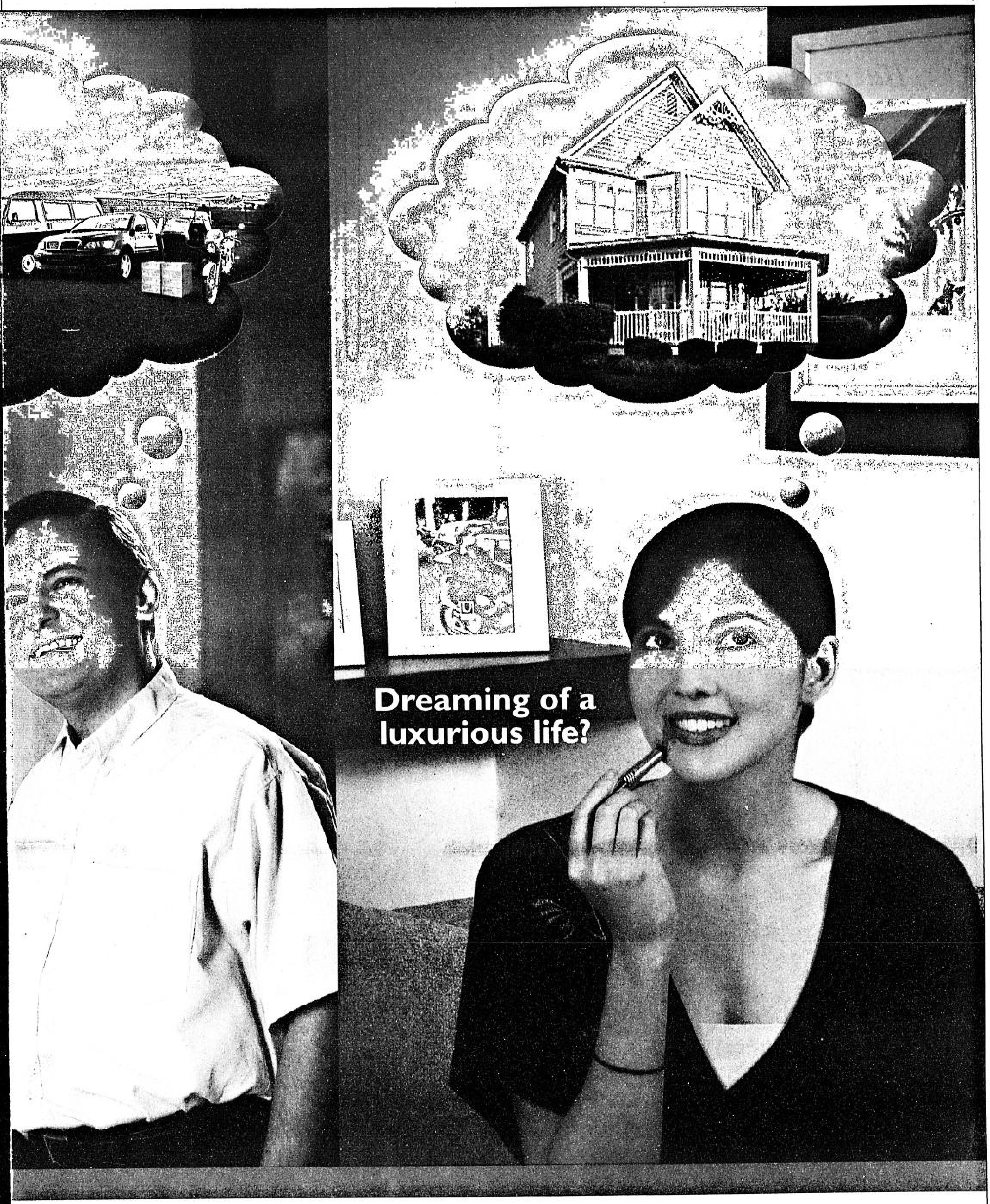

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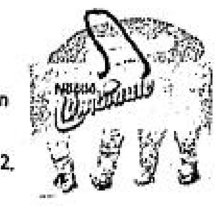

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# Hazards of 'instant' makeover

IN the latest issue of Me magazine, Dr. Diane Cue, a breast cancer specialist, discusses the dangers and issues involved in instant beauty enhancing procedures.

According to her, haphazard treatments ultimately make it hard for doctors to detect if a woman has breast cancer, even through mammograms or ultrasound.

While the injectable method may seem a cheaper and faster alternative to breast augmentation surgery, its possible long-term effects may be more expensive and difficult, if not painful.

Know more about these and other useful topics in the latest issue of Me magazine, a publication of Mega Magazines & Publications, Inc. It is available in all leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide.

Call 6372701 for subscriptions and back issues.

# Golden anniversary sale

LISING Crafts, Inc., a leading lamps manufacturer, celebrates its golden anniversary with a special 10-day sale up to March 28.

The store that Pete (deceased) and Ched Lising opened 50 years ago, Lising Art Craft on Taft Avenue, sold products made by the couple themselves like lamps, handicraft and decorative items.

When the business grew, the couple moved their store to A. Mabini, Ermita and gave it a new name, Lising Lite Craft.

In 1960, the Lisings constructed a lamp factory in Makati. Its clients included hotels and business offices.

As the company continued to grow, it changed its name once again to the present Lising Crafts, Inc. It occupied two buildings—one along Pasong Tamo Extension, which housed the lamps factory; and the other at the Makati Commercial Center, the Lising Commercial House, where the display room and sales offices were located and which was designed by architect Arthur Lising.

It now occupies Space #317 at the third level of Glorietta 4.

Lising lamps are also being exported to the United States, Europe and Australia. Recently the company opened a subsidiary branch in Los Angeles, California.

Lising Crafts latest achievement is a fiber art lamp called "Symphony in Lighting" available in any design, size and color.

For information , call Glorietta 4 7289398 or 7289399; and Pasong Tamo Ext. 8926027, 8934810 or 8103213.

# Light classics at the park

CONCERT at the Park goes "Light Classics" at 6 p.m., today.

Featured are the Reborn Band, composed of Richard Bacsafra and Helen Papeleras (vocalists), Ryan Bacsafra (keyboards), Jonathan Suarez (lead guitar), Lloyd Lagrosa (bass guitar) and Rolando Gajitos (drums). Minette Padilla is program host.

The free weekly Concert at the Park is a public service project of the National Parks Development Committee, under executive director Jaime K. Recio, and the National Broadcasting Network. It is aired at 6 p.m., Mondays, on Channel 4. Villamor M. Paredes directs for television from a script by Gie Villasor-Arnold. Freddie A. Edos is executive in charge of the concert project.

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# Delectable dinner marks La Chaine's induction ceremonies

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*Jaime Picornell*

THE 11TH induction ceremonies of La Chaine des Rotisseurs in Cebu was a brilliant affair held at the Marriott Hotel. Guests gathered at the hotel's foyer for champagne, welcomed by **Amparito Lhuillier** as the organization's Baili, and **Michel Lhuillier**, who heads the Ordre Mondial des Gourmands et Degustateurs here.

**Tita Trillo**, who heads L'Ordre in Manila, came for the occasion, as did La Chaine's international chancellor **Fred Frank Fricke**, who officiated the various ceremonies in store.

Aside from Amparito, La Chaine's hierarchy in Cebu includes Dr. **Nestor Alonso**, Dr. **Julian Divinagracia**, chef **Dietmar Dietrich**, **Teresing Mendezona**, and **Al Evangelio**, who was the evening's master of ceremonies.

He introduced the 12 new members and read aloud their credentials. At the top of the list is **Karl Hudson**, Marriott's general manager, who spared no effort nor cost to make this event truly memorable. For one thing, it will be hard to top.

Also inducted as members were **Sachiyo Corners, Joanna Lhuillier, Dominique Reigel, Peter Cullen, Michael Henessy, Herve Lampert, Debbie Enriquez, Daniele Vastolo, Michel Marchant, Renato Dychangco** and his lovely daughter **Kathleen Dychangco**.

From the induction hall, guests were asked to file through a tunnel of flowers, into the grand ballroom. Three tables were set to seat 60, draped in purple, strewn with rose petals and lit with tapers on massive gold candelabra.

There were more flowers to adorn the walls, and a raised dais, where a string quartet from Cebu's very own Peace Philharmonic performed all night. The repertoire was strictly classical, and some of that Mozart, Beethoven or Haydn merited warm applause.

Dinner started with a salad of quail, pomelo and wild mesclun, followed by a soup of roasted squash scented with white truffle. The wine served with these openers was Colombelle 2002, Vin des Cotes de Gascogne (Plaimont, France).

A delicious Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc 2003 from Marlborough, New Zealand, was served with the Sydney rock lobsters in an emulsion of young coconut. The sherbet to clear all palates was called Intermezzo, of wild mint and *dalandan*.

An excellent red wine, also from New Zealand, Te Mata Coleraine Cabernet/Merlot 2000 (Hawkes Bay), accompanied the main course: Medallion of Angus beef with seared foie gras.

The meal concluded with a series of delights. First came a plate of tropical fruit with *sabayon*, and then tiny soufflés of Grand Marnier. It was quite a feat to make 60 of them! To wash it down there was Pelorus, Cloudy Bay, also from Marlborough, NZ.

Finally, a plate of assorted cheeses, served with Woodstock Vintage Port 1994 from McLaren Vale in Australia. Of course, it did not end with that as there were coffee or tea, cigars, cognac, liqueurs and delectable *mignardises* (homemade chocolate bonbons by the Marriott).

Awards were given to the hotel, and none was more deserving than that presented to **Dottie Viajar Wurgler**, the Marriott's whiz for food and beverage.

The party and fun continued till the wee hours.

Where do we get all those nice wines served? Someone wanted to know. A safe guess is the newly opened Darras and Bowler delicatessen cum wine cellar, with some tables and chairs for the patrons to degustate what is sold in it—cheeses, Spanish *jamon serrano*, olives, breads, pastries—name it, they've got it.

Located in the Banilad area, and close to the exclusive urban enclaves, it is owned and managed by two ladies: **Corinne Darras Joseph**, the French-speaking wife of **Dondi Joseph**, president of Cebu's Cheese and Wine Club; and **Therese Bowler Gonzalez**, wife of businessman **Eddie Gonzalez**. They hosted a grand opening at which the guests of honor were Cebu City Vice Mayor **Michael Rama**, **Judy Aboitiz** and Michel Lhuillier.

Alex and **Clifford Lichaytoo** of Bacchus International came for the occasion. With them were two French gentlemen from the world of wines—**Emmanuel Cruse**, proprietor of Chateau d'Issan; and **Marcel Ducasse**, managing director of Chateau Lagrange.

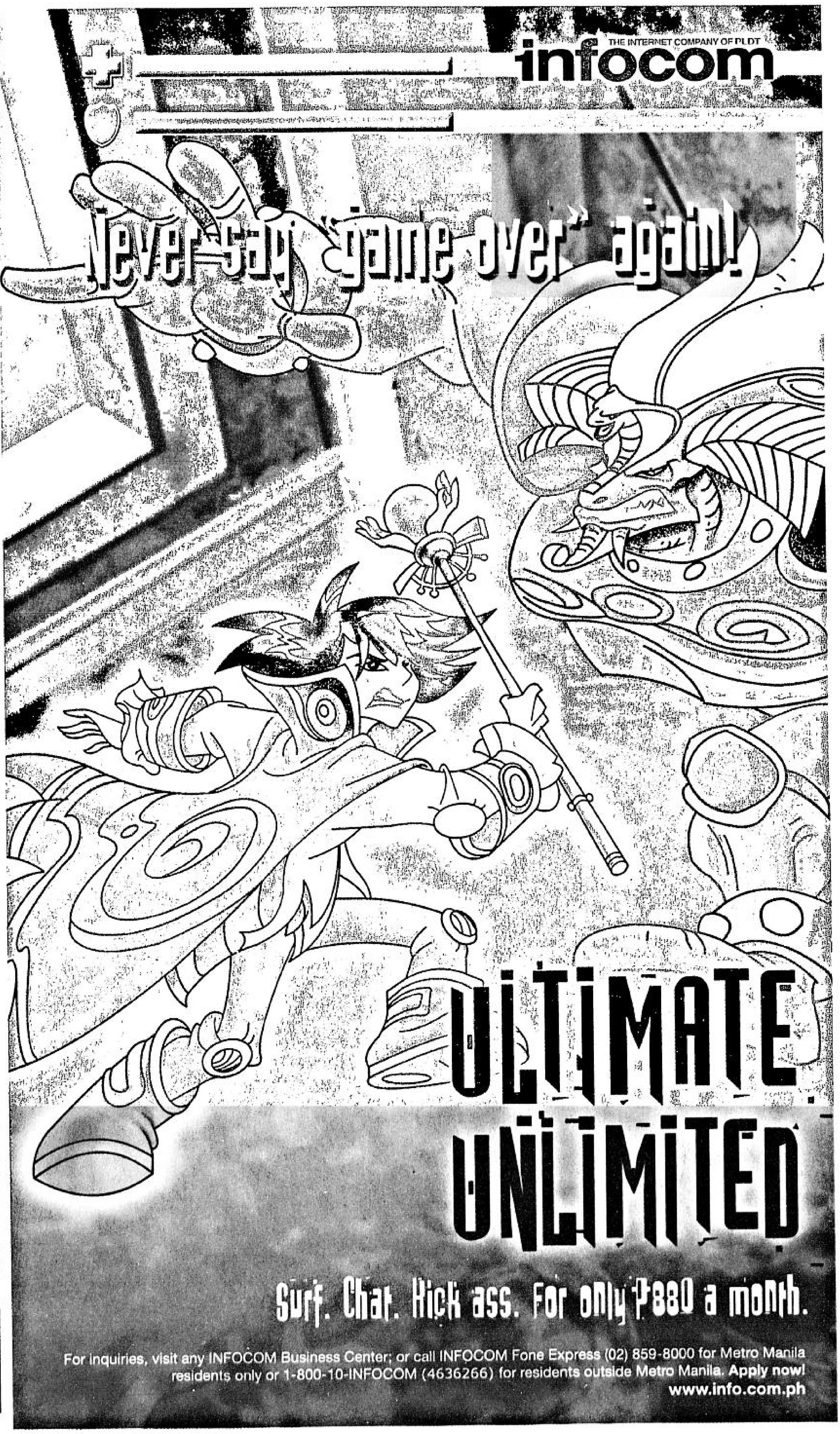
**TERESING Mendezona, Dottie Wurgler and Amparito Lhuillier**

**MYRA Gonzalez, Gabriel Palmar and Chona Mercado**

**KATHLEEN Dychangco and Dondi Joseph**

**TITA Trillo and Fred Franck Fricke**

**MICHEL Lhuillier and Karl Hudson**



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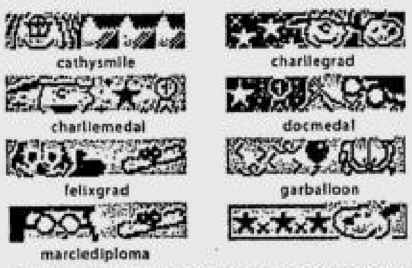
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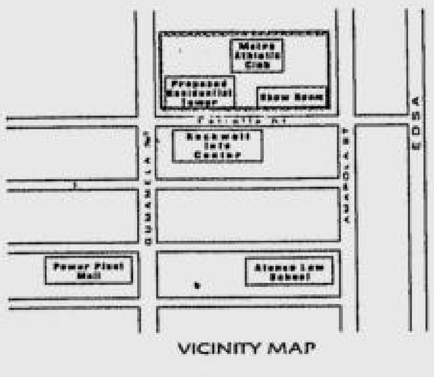
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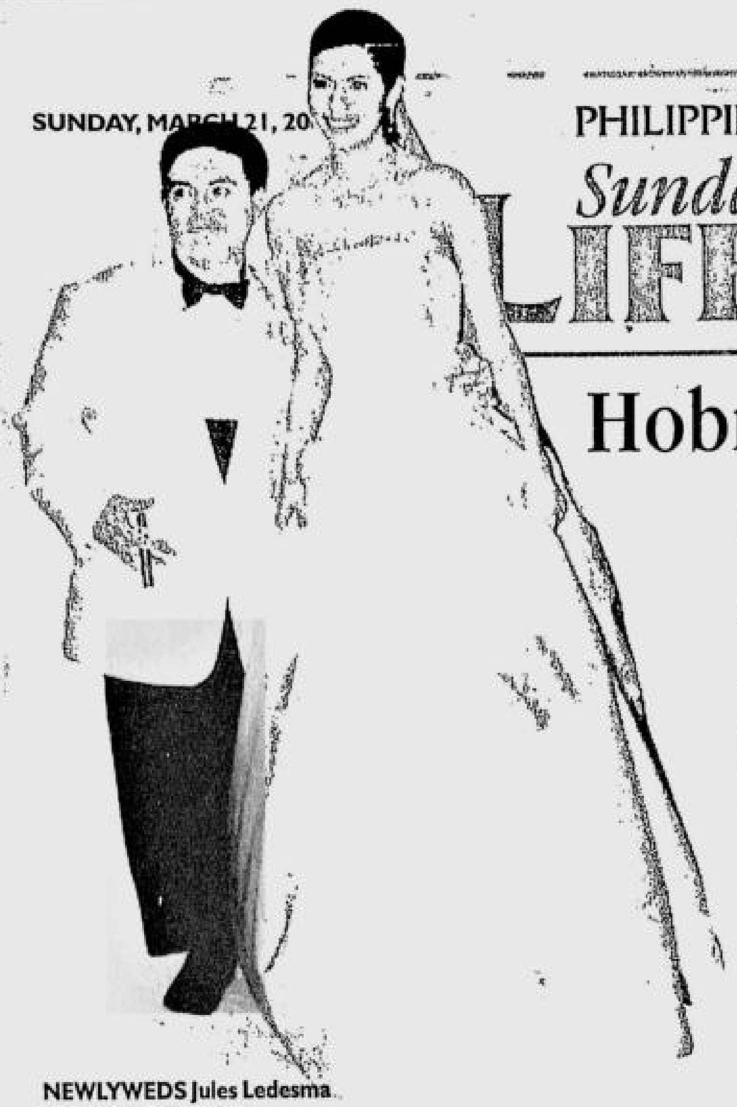
# Hobnobbing with a real bride and some wannabes

Recently-wed Assunta de Rossi has my dream body—long limbs and sexy curves—the kind that doesn't need any dieting and workouts

**TESSA!**

*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*



**NEWLYWEDS Jules Ledesma and Assunta de Rossi**

ASSUNTA, like **Madonna**, has name recall just with her first name. They are also both half-Italian (does **Schiavone** sound Italian enough?) and have stood their ground amidst the controversies and praises that mark the ups and downs of a career. And now, both are also enjoying marital bliss.

For those living on another planet and unfamiliar with what is happening in Manila, I am referring to the ex-sexy star **Assunta de Rossi**. She had her church wedding last week to her politician of choice, Negros Rep. **Jules Ledesma**.

In classic showbiz-meets-politics-all-the-way-to-the-altar fashion, this couple has had so many intrigues and dramatic sessions rivaling the great telenovelas before they got to the "living happily ever after" part of their lives.

I first met Assunta at last year's Metro

HOBNOBBING/ H2

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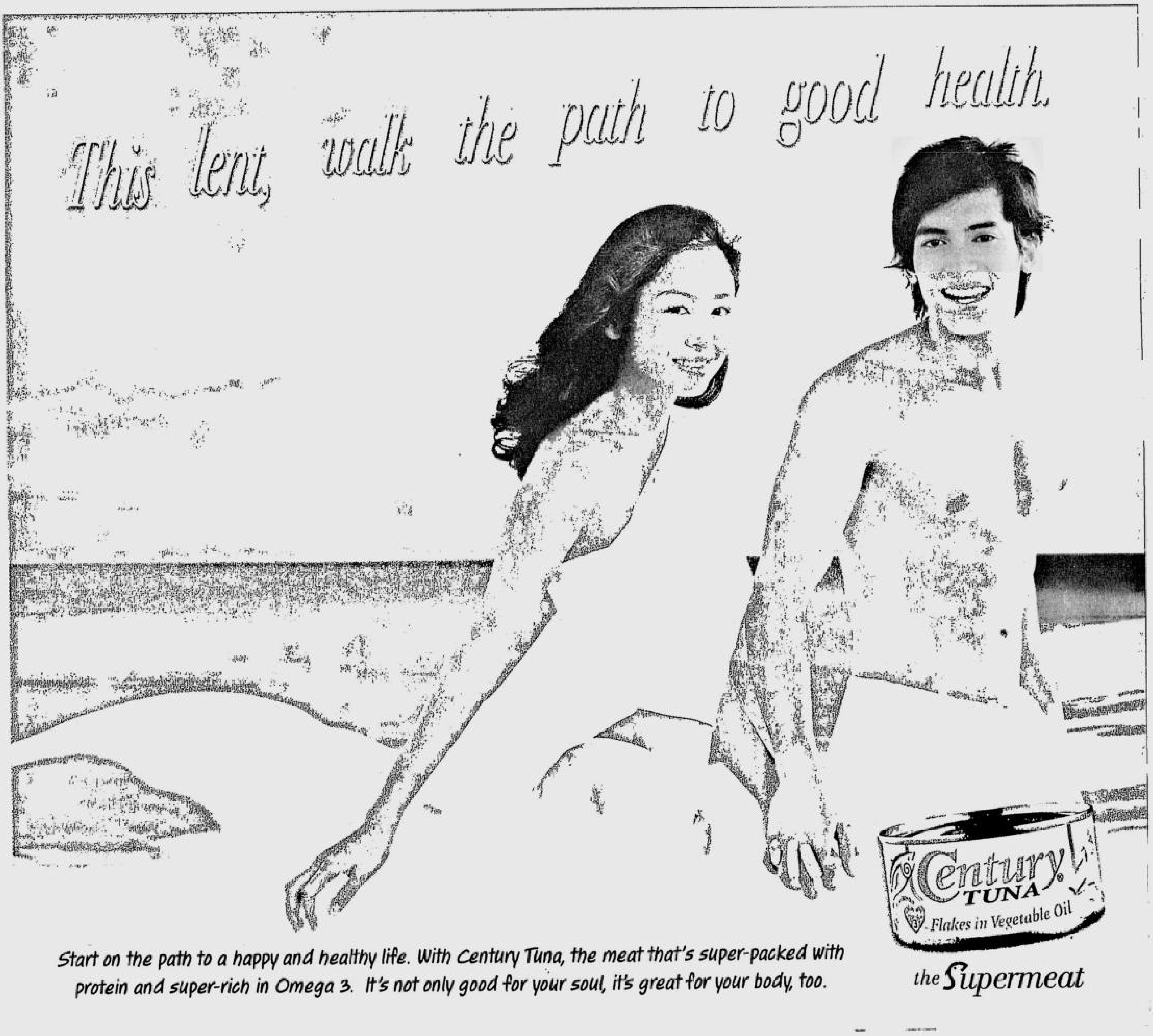

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BEAUTY and makeup shower for Assunta at Urban Spa, with Shu Uemura giveaways

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RHETT Eala and Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Assunta's designers

CIARA Sotto

CHARLENE Gonzales-Muhlach

CARLA, Jules' sister

RICA Peralejo and Bernard Palanca

# Hobnobbing with a real bride and some wannabes

From page H1

Weddings Fashion Show. I approached her and introduced myself as a fan. (I watched one of her movies once during an insomnia attack, but don't ask me which one it was. Let's just say the plot, what little there was to begin with, did not survive after the censors came up with the TV version.)

Assunta has my dream body: long limbs and the sexiest curves. Her body too is the kind that does not seem to need maintenance through endless dieting and intense workouts.

## Notorious

Coincidentally, this year's Metro Weddings fashion show was a week before her Santuario de San Antonio church wedding. This time around, I didn't meet any new personalities but enjoyed the show immensely. The most original and creative gowns by the country's premiere designers were shown. I couldn't wait to order them in my version, since I am notorious for wearing wedding gowns at other people's weddings.

Still having show-stopping figures, some of our '80s models were back in familiar territory with the same ease and grace they had always exuded on the runways. Is it their good bone structure or their discipline that keeps them fit? These are both qualities that I lack, so I have to settle for my other talents, like a wan sense of humor. Like **Dolphy** says, laughter cures most things—except muscle pain and a bad hair day.

One of my favorite gowns was the Chinese-inspired gown and headdress by **Frederick Peralta**. His model looked so authentically Chinese, too. I am already thinking of my version in colored, Chinese embroidered fabric for a theme party. Time to learn martial arts to complement the look. (Speaking of "martial," isn't it funny how closely the word resembles "marital?")

As an interesting twist to the show, my designer friend **Rajo Laurel** did a surprise number and had two men in stylish tailored suits instead of two women sashaying down the ramp. After the second model did his catwalk bit, both men held hands and gestured like they were a couple.

It was only then that the audience realized Rajo was featuring a gay couple. It was so appropriate, what with San Francisco and other US states now allowing gay marriages.

Since I wore Rajo's gown, I jokingly pretended that I was the original bride-to-be, but the guys clearly settled for each other since I

METRO show hosts: Thelma San Juan, Jeena Lopez, InterCon GM Stefan Voogel and Ernie Lopez

ELEGANT guests Emily Lopez and Yaying Dragon

### ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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**SHU** Uemura's Tina Tinio, Dj Montano and Angelique Villaraza

**ASSUNTA** getting a L'Oreal makeovel from Maureen Dabao-Lim

**JACKIE** and Beaver Lopez

**JOE** Salazar's loyal staff still work on his designs.

**GIRL** talk at the spa. Angel Jacob and Len Guiao

**RELATIVES** and friends trading beauty tips. Carla Ledesma, Tatic Mapa and Anne Sytin

**ANNABEL** Rama, Eddie Gutierrez and German Moreno

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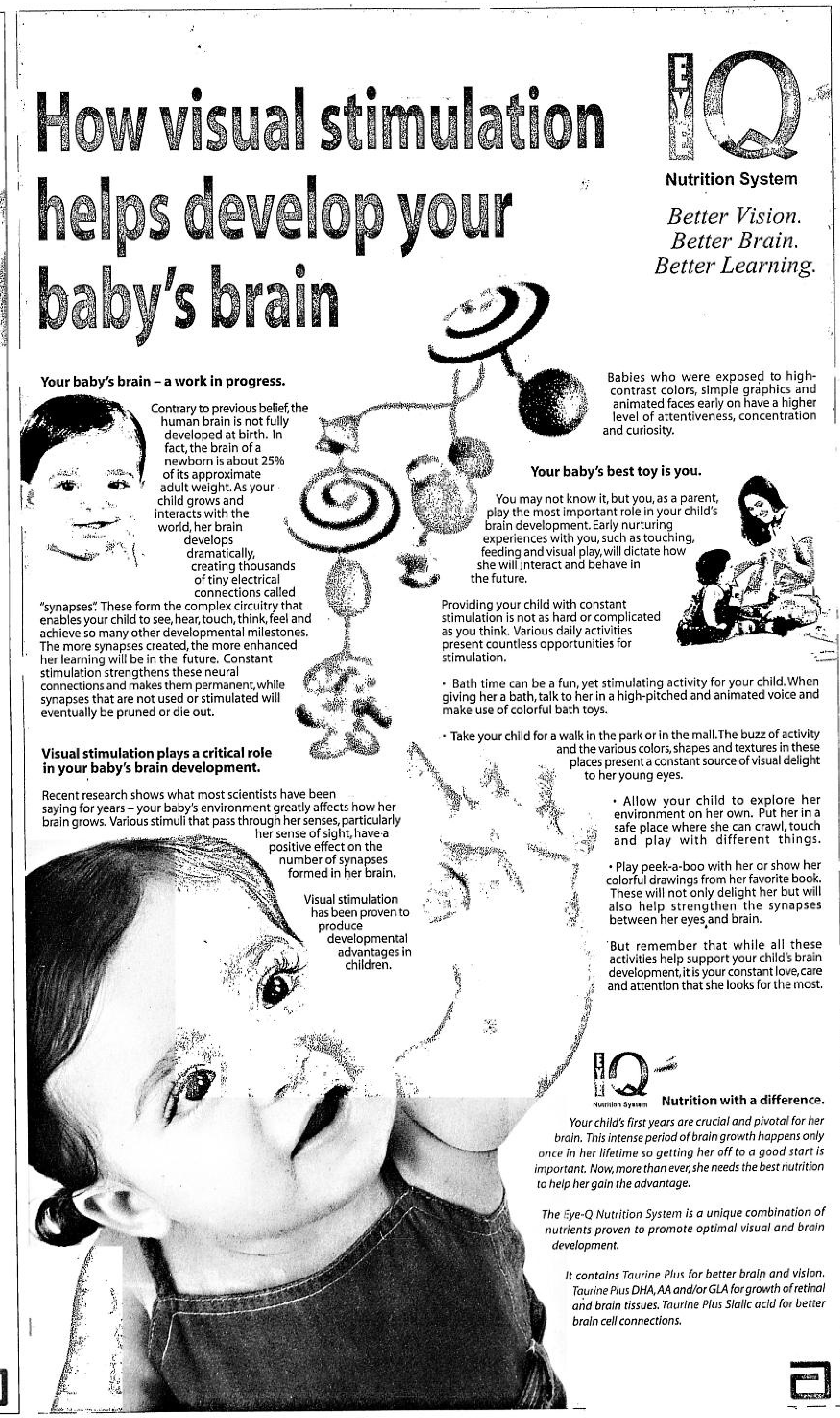

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Visual stimulation plays a critical role in your baby's brain development.

Recent research shows what most scientists have been saying for years – your baby's environment greatly affects how her brain grows. Various stimuli that pass through her senses, particularly her sense of sight, have a positive effect on the number of synapses formed in her brain.

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- Bath time can be a fun, yet stimulating activity for your child. When giving her a bath, talk to her in a high-pitched and animated voice and make use of colorful bath toys.
- Take your child for a walk in the park or in the mall. The buzz of activity and the various colors, shapes and textures in these places present a constant source of visual delight to her young eyes.
- Allow your child to explore her environment on her own. Put her in a safe place where she can crawl, touch and play with different things.
- Play peek-a-boo with her or show her colorful drawings from her favorite book. These will not only delight her but will also help strengthen the synapses between her eyes and brain.

But remember that while all these activities help support your child's brain development, it is your constant love, care and attention that she looks for the most.

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**FREDERICK** Peralta

never made it to the altar with either. And to think the boys looked so handsome in their suits.

At the end of the show, as the designers received flowers, somehow the bouquets ran out. Some of them were accidentally given double bouquets, so top couture man **Inno Sotto** didn't get one.

But Power Puff saved the day, as I handed him my fluffy feather white bag instead. Of course, that bag went straight back to me afterwards, but I wouldn't have minded if it came back with one of Inno's impressive gowns.

### Bridal shower

The next day, my instant outfit designer friend, **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**, called me to help her host a shower for Assunta. Patrice, of course, designed the gowns for Assunta's entourage. I gladly obliged and offered to have a beauty and make-up shower at Urban Spa.

With some instant networking, we even got **Daphne Oseña** to do a feature on the shower in her "F" show and for Metro Weddings. And for makeup tips, L'Oreal's best-dressed PR whiz, **Leica Carpo**, got her crew to give both Assunta and I makeovers.

For the giveaways, Shu Uemura products and helpful beauty tips by Shu expert **Tina Tinio** were shared throughout the session. This amazing woman, who is fluent in Japanese, really knows her products inside and out.

While most of the guests were enjoying the Chinese-English combination mushroom dumplings and scones from Struan and Tang, I hosted some games to also get everyone to know Assunta more. Questions were general trivia about her life, so it was purely a guessing game.

Here are some interesting tidbits about this charming, classy lady: Her best comfort food is Dewberry cookies which she eats everyday. Among her facial features, she hates her eyebrows the most because she had an accident when she was little.

Aside from Jules' two children, she would like to have an additional two more. Going on a Mediterranean cruise is her dream vacation. If she gets a tattoo, she would have one of thorns around her waist like a belt (everyone else guessed a butterfly or a rose).

The very first thing she received from Jules was a flower and a long letter that she also shared with her mom.

And the part of Jules that Assunta loves best (definitely not his height, she said jokingly) is his brain. So, if one knows how smart he is, he can get any lady in the world, at least one of Assunta's caliber.

As things turned out, however, I couldn't attend Jules and Assunta's wedding because I was out of town. One of the shower guests, **Tatic Mapa**, told me that when it was time for Jules to kiss his bride, he had difficulty removing the veil, which created a funny commotion.

Since Jules and I can literally see eye to eye, I only can imagine the scene.

The reception at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel ended really late, with most guests partying until the wee hours of the morning. I can only wish that I had been there, too!

*E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph*

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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# Harvard and my midlife interlude

**By Grace Shangkuan Koo**
*Contributor*

I AM in my midlife, married half my life, blessed with a college-junior daughter and a high-school-junior son, with four academic degrees tucked somewhere, living a very comfortable, well-read, well-traveled life and holding a respectable job as a UP professor—though always been half-hearted about going full-blast into this career.

So what happened when I announced to my friends and relatives that I was going to Harvard for post-doctoral studies?

My hubby asked, "Are you sure?" The kids chorused "Yehey!" My mom gave me a bracelet; my mom-in-law said approvingly, "Ha-fa-r! (in Chinese). My friends and colleagues treated me to lunches. And I sobbed the last Sunday before departure to Boston while the church choir sang the benediction.

So there I was in Cambridge, Massachusetts, trying to look and behave every bit like a graduate student, hoping not to be mistaken as one of the "ladies who lunch" back home.

I said "no" to high-heels, taxis, new books, fancy meals and five-star hotels. And "yes" to Timberland, subway, used books, take-out and attic. I wanted to train myself to work within a student budget I set myself, even as my husband, who escorted me there, deposited money in the bank in my name—which I did not use much, now I can say proudly.

This "life project" of attending Harvard was a result of my "25 Things to Do before I Die" plan. Among others, it included writing for the INQUIRER, going to Greece and Russia, learning French, appearing on TV, and learning to cook. Except for the last one, the rest had been ticked off as accomplished.

## Scholarly act

Appointed a visiting scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, I was granted full access to all libraries (even the faculty lounge/gym), an office space with tech facilities and support and, the best of all, no charge for all the courses I wished to take!

I grabbed it as no sane middle-aged mother would, and attended eight courses (a full term only allows four courses).

And for 15 weeks, I set myself to reading 600-800 pages (a joyous task) and making sure I raised questions or gave my comments in every class session (a glorious opportunity!). I even lugged my course packets to bed. Yes, I was never this hardworking!

The experience of having Howard Gardner (of the "Multiple Intelligences" fame) listen closely to whatever I had to say in his two classes and for him to comment favorably on some of my ideas took me to another "Frame of Mind."

Likewise, having long conversations over lunch with Kurt Fischer, my faculty sponsor and with whom I attended two classes in "Mind, Brain and Cognition," made me feel like a true academician.

David Perkins, the thinking curriculum guru, demonstrated thinking tools—mental, psychological and technical—with savvy. Robert Kegan, like a rabbi, moved us with his powerful words on reflective-existential understanding of ourselves as adults.

Joe Blatt wrote me a heartwarming commendation right after my presentation on the Philippine media, while the class giggled watching clips of our mushy, squishy soap operas. Team Learning class was always a process-in-process—an intellectual riot, while Psychological Anthropology, unfortunately too predictable with the way the class was handled, was a plus only in readings.

## Poor us, rich us

Accepted to Harvard with a research proposal, I came home doing three studies. Transitioning to the local academic situation and library support was a leap of faith.

HARVARD/13

HOT picks
A
B
C
D
F
clikits
on Borgy: STAMP 100 Swatch [illegible]

A: Swatch Bijoux "Glaring" Bracelet. The word love in different languages on the little plaquettes.
B & C: Benetton Spring-Summer Collection. Go polka dots with "Shine" or bright summer colors with "Winner".
D: Russ Purebred Schnauzer Pup. Loveable just like the real thing. E: Lego Clikits. Just a click away to a new creation.
F: Borgy on Hello Kitty.

Love you always Kitty! Borgy

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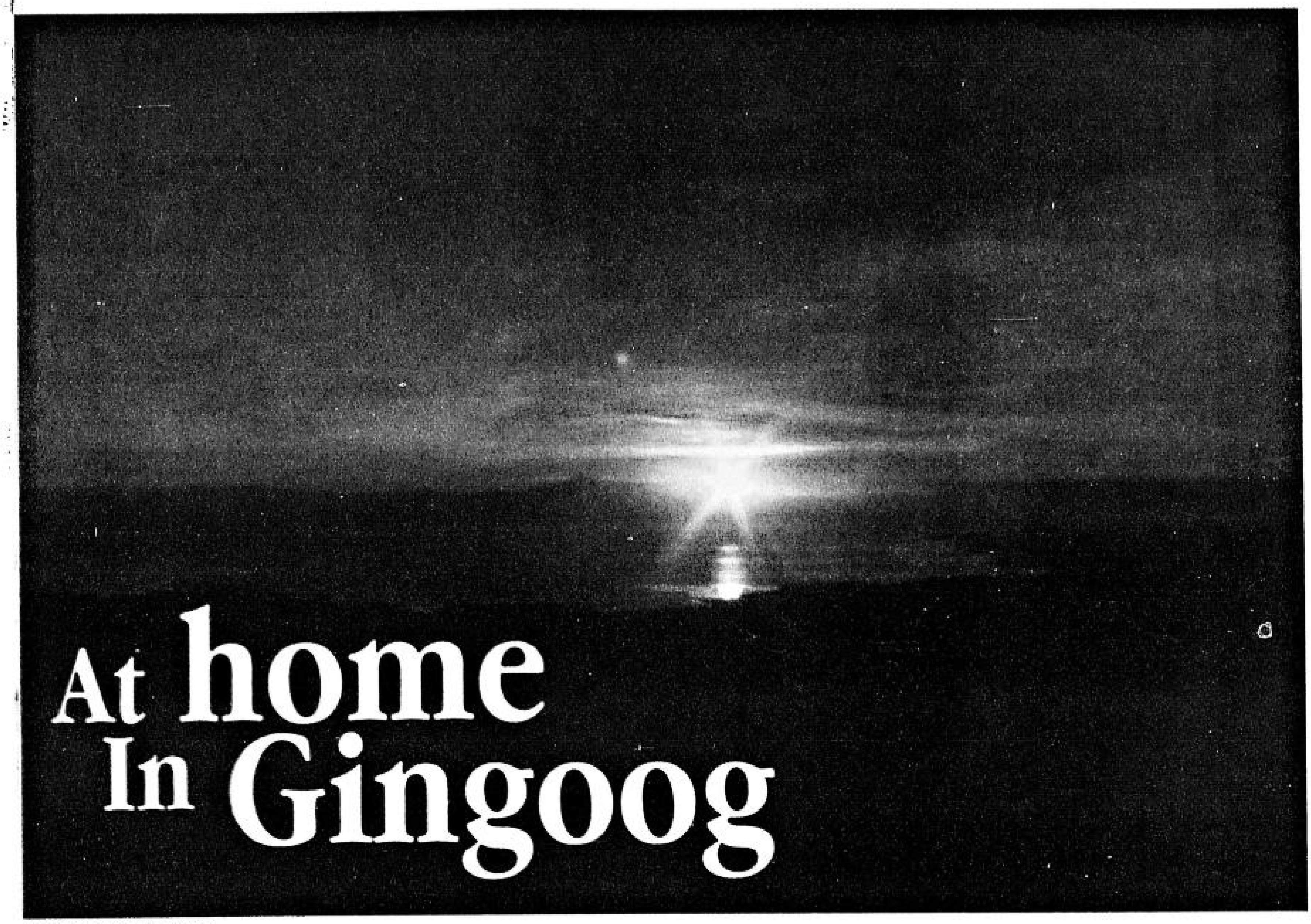
# TRAVEL

*Editor* **Rosario A. Garcellano**



# At home In Gingoog

GOOD morning, sunshine.

‘When you’re on a mountain, everything is unforgettable. How breathtaking the lake looked. How thick the forest was. What he said. It’s something you’ll always remember’

**By Chic Fortich**
*Contributor*

THIS 24-year-old resident of Metro Manila grew up spending summers in Gingoog (pronounced Hi-ngo-og), his mother’s hometown in Misamis Oriental.

Today, Waldo Petralba, son of Milagros Reyes and Paulino Petralba, manages an agri-business venture in Gingoog, and is loving the place even more: “I get excited when I think of Gingoog. I keep thinking I’ll discover something new. There’s so much to find on its mountains.”

It’s amusing to think that the place Waldo is raving about is an old town that has been around since the Spanish era. (Gingoog City received its charter in July 1960.) Even in the past, its mountains grabbed the limelight.

It was to Mount Balatukan and its dense virgin forests that the revolutionaries fled, finding refuge in the homes of the native people living close to the mountaintop. If that area remains a challenge even to mountain climbers today, it is not surprising that the revolutionaries’ pursuers never caught up with them a century ago.

Waldo, a novice mountaineer, claims to have climbed four mountains in Luzon—Pinatubo, Arayat, Pulag and Natib. “But the two mountains that make Gingoog identifiable from afar, Balatukan and Lumot, are different. The climb is difficult because the terrain is very mossy and slippery,” he says.

Mount Lumot (so-called because its terrain is covered with moss) loomed large in the national consciousness early in 1998, in connection with the ill-fated Cebu Pacific Flight 387. The plane literally collided head-on with the mountain on Feb. 2 of that year; no survivor was found.

Every Feb. 2 since then, members of the Kapunungan sa Pagpang-usisa Labot sa Gingoog, or Kaplag, sends out invitations to mountaineers nationwide to join what they call their “anniversary climb.”

Waldo joined the climb again this year, and brags about his having been chosen one of the “sweepers,” or climbers who linger on the trail to “sweep” what or who may be left behind.

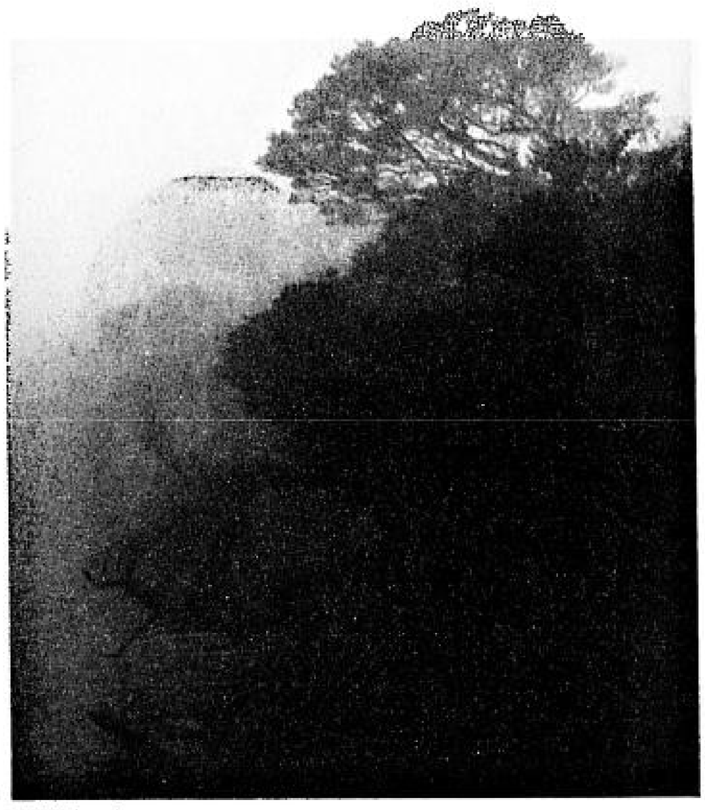
Mounts Balatukan and Lumot tower above Gingoog and may be seen and identified from the northeastern part of the sea (the city faces the ocean).

Veteran climbers, such as Eric Bontoyan of Cagayan de Oro City and George Tagarda of the Gingoog Tourism Office, agree with Waldo’s observation that the climb is difficult.

Sometimes the angle of the climb is around 45 degrees, which can make any climber pant for breath, Bontoyan says. “The terrain is challenging because there is hardly any trail to follow. I have had to bushwhack my way through the forest ground cover to open a new trail,” he says.

Gingoog Information Officer Arnold Sia says no actual sightings have been made, but evidence shows that Philippine (or monkey-eating) eagles fly above these two mountains.

More than halfway up Balatukan can be found Lake Bantaawan, a large body of water that provides a refreshing—and awesome—break from all that forest. Past the lake, no climber has yet ventured. Only the native people, the Higaonon, live there.



LAKE lovely

Waldo has taken several photographs of the lake from the start-off point of the Lumot climb.

Here’s Waldo talking about the experience of climbing the mountain: “Days before the climb, the excitement begins. I prepare my gear and am already thrilled by the prospect of discovering new things. About the place. About the other climbers.”

He insists that a person’s personality changes when on a climb: “Take Mark [his first-degree cousin who lives in Gingoog], for example. He’s so calm when in the city. But on the mountain, he’s the type of climber who won’t mind how heavy a load he carries, as long as he gets to eat as much as he can when he camps for the night.

“Others keep talking. Some won’t eat, and just go to sleep right away. And there are those who enjoy music, and won’t mind carrying their heavy radios, as long as they can listen to music at night.

“Even your conversation on the mountain becomes different. You talk about what you’ve seen, or about other climbs.”

Listening to Waldo talk about mountain climbing, one can feel his excitement. But, he explains, “it’s more than excitement.”

Says he: “When you live in the city, so many things happen but you forget them right away. When you’re on a mountain, everything is unforgettable. How breathtaking Lake Bantaawan looked. How particularly thick the forest was in that area. How a fellow climber looked when he said something. It’s all memorable. Something you’ll remember all throughout your life.”

But then he’s in his beloved Gingoog, where, he says, “instead of just talking and talking, I listen more.”

“Because even the way they tell their jokes is different,” he noted. “I may speak the language, but I speak it differently.”

Waldo feels he has the best of both worlds. His actual residence is in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City, and his lifestyle there suits the people who live there.

And then he’s back in Gingoog again—with his mother’s sister Myrna and her husband, Judge Downey Valdevilla, and their sons Mark (with wife Marie and son Matt), Gogol and Ewing.

“There’s no traffic, and fewer people,” Waldo says. “Everything proceeds at its own pace. Progress will get there but at its own time. No need to rush.”

Indeed, Gingoog is still very much a provincial town, its lifestyle slower than in Manila. Its telephone system is still outmoded, although its current population of 211,000 is growing.

“My situation is even better than an overseas contract worker’s,” quips Waldo. “I get to go to Manila every two or three months. An OCW comes home only once a year.”

But which place is really home?

Waldo is quick to answer: “When I get to Gingoog, I sigh: I’m home.”

## TRAVELBRIEFS

### Summer packages

THE ISLAND Cove Resort & Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, is offering summer packages for families (two adults and two kids), lovers, groups of friends, and health buffs.

The packages include use of the resort’s gym and sports facilities, discounts at selected restaurants and services, and other perks.

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* * *

At the Manila Pavilion Hotel, the “Family Breakout” package covers superior room accommodations, buffet breakfast and choice of lunch or dinner.

The package is available to local residents only and valid until May 31.

Call 526-1212 extension 2333 or 2369.

### Northern escapades

CAUSEWAY Tours offers vacationists a choice between Batanes and the Ilocos on March 24-27.

Rugged and windswept Batanes, with its magnificent scenery, gnarled trees, quaint villages and their distinctive typhoon-proof stone houses, is the perfect escape for the adventurous traveler.

In Ilocos, the highlights are visits to the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Vigan Heritage Village, Paoay, Sarrat, Batac, the Malacañang of the North, Laoag City and Pagudpud.

For inquiries, call 472-5569 or 0916-3963963.

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## *‘Ocho-ocho’ for a cause*

REVELERS in San Joaquin

NATURE, history, and culture come together in eight new ecotours to little-known destinations in the Western Visayas.

Billed “Ocho-ocho,” the tours take visitors to San Joaquin, Ajuy and Concepcion in Iloilo; Kalibo, Tangalan, Malay and Nabas in Aklan; and Pandan in Antique. All are day excursions that start off from Iloilo City, Kalibo or Boracay.

Tour highlights include the only bas relief carved from coral stones on the façade of a 150-year-old church in San Joaquin, the karst rock formations of Pan de Azucar, the fabled limestone “sugar loaf” mountain in Concepcion, the enchanted Pangihan Cave in Malay, the ruins of a Spanish lighthouse overlooking the sea, the layered basins of Jawili Falls in Tangalan, and the last remaining intact lowland rainforest in Nabas.

Tour participants can learn the songs and try on the costumes (and makeup) of Ati-atihan tribes or watch piña weavers at work in Kalibo, listen to “ngutngut” music and local legends in Pandan, go paraw sailing in Malay, try their hand at fishing using traditional gear in Ajuy, or watch a reenactment of the landing of the 10 Bornean datus and their purchase of Panay for a golden *sandok* and gold necklace.

The tours are aimed at giving visitors a sampling of the Philippines’ biodiversity and the unique customs, lifestyle and crafts of indigenous peoples. And because they are designed as community-based sustainable projects, the tours are also envisioned to preserve the environment and spur economic development.

The project was commissioned by the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program, which runs projects promoting efficient, transparent and accountable governance in certain areas in Western Visayas and Mindanao. Ecoutourism development consultant Monina Flores designed the tours and helped train the locals to conduct and manage them.

Smart Communications is sponsoring “Ocho-ocho” in line with its corporate program to support local communities engaged in ecotourism and environmental conservation, as well as to promote responsible travel practices, starting with its own 5,000 employees.

For inquiries, call travel agencies offering domestic tours.

# Harvard and my midlife interlude

From page I1

Nevertheless, I am not blind to the disparities (even while I still have certain Harvard privileges). At the moment, I have full-text access to some 15,000 electronic journals on the Internet through Harvard.

When and where have we provided our faculty members with such amount of resources, or even information about such journal titles? Being included in the faculty list at Harvard, I receive regular e-mails updating me on the multimedia tools at the Learning Technologies Center that I can use or request for assistance.

I read the last e-mail, and counted some 180 software for Windows and Macintosh computers. Aaah! Don't get me started on what I am provided with in my workplace somewhere in Diliman.

Faculty members at Harvard teach two courses at most in a semester, and in each class are assigned Teaching Fellows (their Ph.D. students) to check papers, facilitate groups, do summaries, write assignments, etc.

This leaves faculty members much time and energy to write proposals for research grants, submit manuscripts, network for collaborative projects. Now, the green-eyed monster is really sneaking up.

Yes, Harvard is rich, efficient, systematic—but, most importantly, professional. For one, none of my professors were ever late or absent for scheduled lecture meetings. Not even guest speakers like Steven Pinker!

But I do have good things to say about us, too.

We are a friendly people—very personable and truly interested in one another. Our students are respectful, patient and creative. Our teachers are very sacrificial—for lack of a better word.

We are less dependent on technology. As we do not have much of it, we depend on ourselves and on one another. We are rich in inner human resources. Our country is poor, but let not this poverty become our ally and alibi.

## Crossroads

Having been back home for a while now, I have picked up my "normal" middle-aged life of family, friends, food and fun.

But by golly, I see crossroads coming into view again. Indeed, I am fired up by research possibilities and ready to attack my classes with renewed vigor.

Yet, I do not see myself committed to a one-track-career in the academe. I don't fit into the mold of a stereotyped homemaker or mother, either. In other words, I don't want to just let my life pass me by.

I have started writing my "Next 25 things to do" list. And right now, I have three trajectories, some sort of "life projects" in the brew, all of which will make full use of my education and work experience.

Meaningful and life-transforming, these new experiences will bring me great satisfaction, knowing that I have not stagnated in midlife but have lived my life quite productively and, hopefully, generously.

*E-mail the author at grace@koo.org*

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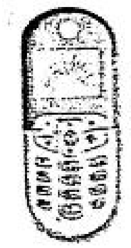

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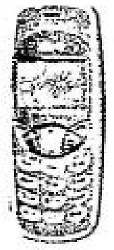

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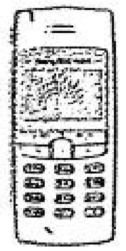

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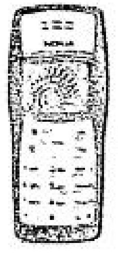

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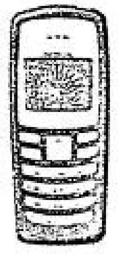

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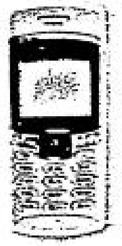
| P250 load for 24 months | - 6,000 |
| SureLoad Handset Cost | P 2,600 |
| **Save 57% on handset cost** | |



**SONY ERICSSON T230**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SureLoad Kit Price** | **P 9,900** |
| P250 load for 24 months | - 6,000 |
| SureLoad Handset Cost | P 3,900 |
| **Save 48% on handset cost** | |

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Grab 'em at the Sun Shops: **MAKATI** Park Square One, 1st Flr. **MANDALUYONG** SM Megamall, 4th Flr., Cyberzone; Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 1st Flr. **MANILA** Robinsons Manila, 1st Flr.; SM Manila, 4th Flr.; SM Sta. Mesa, 3rd Flr. **MINDANAO** SM Davao, 3rd Flr.; Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, 2nd Flr., Big R **NORTH LUZON** Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, 1st Flr., Robinsons Gate **PASIG/RIZAL** Robinsons Metro East, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Cainta, 1st Flr. **QUEZON CITY** Robinsons Galleria, 4th Flr.; SM North Edsa, Carpark Building; SM Fairview, 2nd Flr. **PARAÑAQUE/ALABANG/LAS PIÑAS** SM Bicutan, 2nd Flr., Bldg. B; SM Southmall, 2nd Flr.; Filinvest Festival Mall, 4th Flr. **SOUTH LUZON** Robinsons Sta. Rosa, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Imus, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Dasmariñas, 2nd Flr.; Robinsons Lipa, 1st Flr.; SM Bacoor, 3rd Flr. **VISAYAS** Robinsons Iloilo, 1st Flr.; Robinsons Cebu, 2nd Flr.; Robinsons Bacolod, 2nd Flr.; SM Cebu, 3rd Flr. **Also available at these outlets:** Comworks • Mega Cellular • Quick.com • Spacecom • E Phone • ADI Telecom • Robinsons Choice • Wellcom Telecom Supermarket • Semicon retail outlets. For more details, contact our hotline: **395-8000** or visit our website: **www.suncellular.com.ph**

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# The greens are alive

**OLIVIA** wears an orange racer-back tank (P998), paisley-print white shorts (P498), both by Esprit, and yellow scarf by British India (P798). Sara wears a printed long-sleeve shirt (P3,298) and bandeau bikini top (P798), both by Esprit

**Text by Cheche V. Moral**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**
**Styling by Marielle Santos**

## Lifestyle takes Cinderella's styles to an estate only 75 km from Manila for some quality weekend R&R

*Summertime/ And the livin' is easy/ Fish are jumpin'/ And the cotton is high.../ One of these mornings/ You're gonna rise up singin'/ Then you'll spread your wings/ And you'll take to the sky...*—**"Summertime" by George Gershwin**

EVEN affluent urban families are finding it quite challenging these days to discover venues for weekend leisure without them ending up spending their precious family hours in parallel universes.

**SARA** wears a rose-colored prairie skirt (P1,798) and rose-colored lace camisole (P798) by U2, and a chocolate brown embroidered blouse by British India. Robert wears a striped polo with floral design (P2,048) and gray pants (P2,898) by Esprit.

Dad likes to practice his swing at the greens but that would mean leaving out Mom, who wants to spend time with him but shuns the wrinkle-causing sun. Of course, she could always linger in the clubhouse and sip piña coladas, or get a good rubdown in one of the massage rooms while he finishes his game.

What about the kids? Junior likes to try his hand at the foosball table while *Ate* sun-bathes by the pool. *Kuya* shoots hoops and plays some pool with his buddies; they like to sit down later for some good, filling snacks and drinks.

Sounds like a tall order for brief summer weekends, huh? The answer may not be as challenging as finding the fountain of youth, if the Active Group Inc., developer of Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates, is to be believed.

The development lies 75 km south of Makati, and a few minutes away from the center of Lipa City. And even better, says Active, you could live the leisurely summer weekend life on a daily basis.

THE GREENS/ J2

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0236 Series of 2004.

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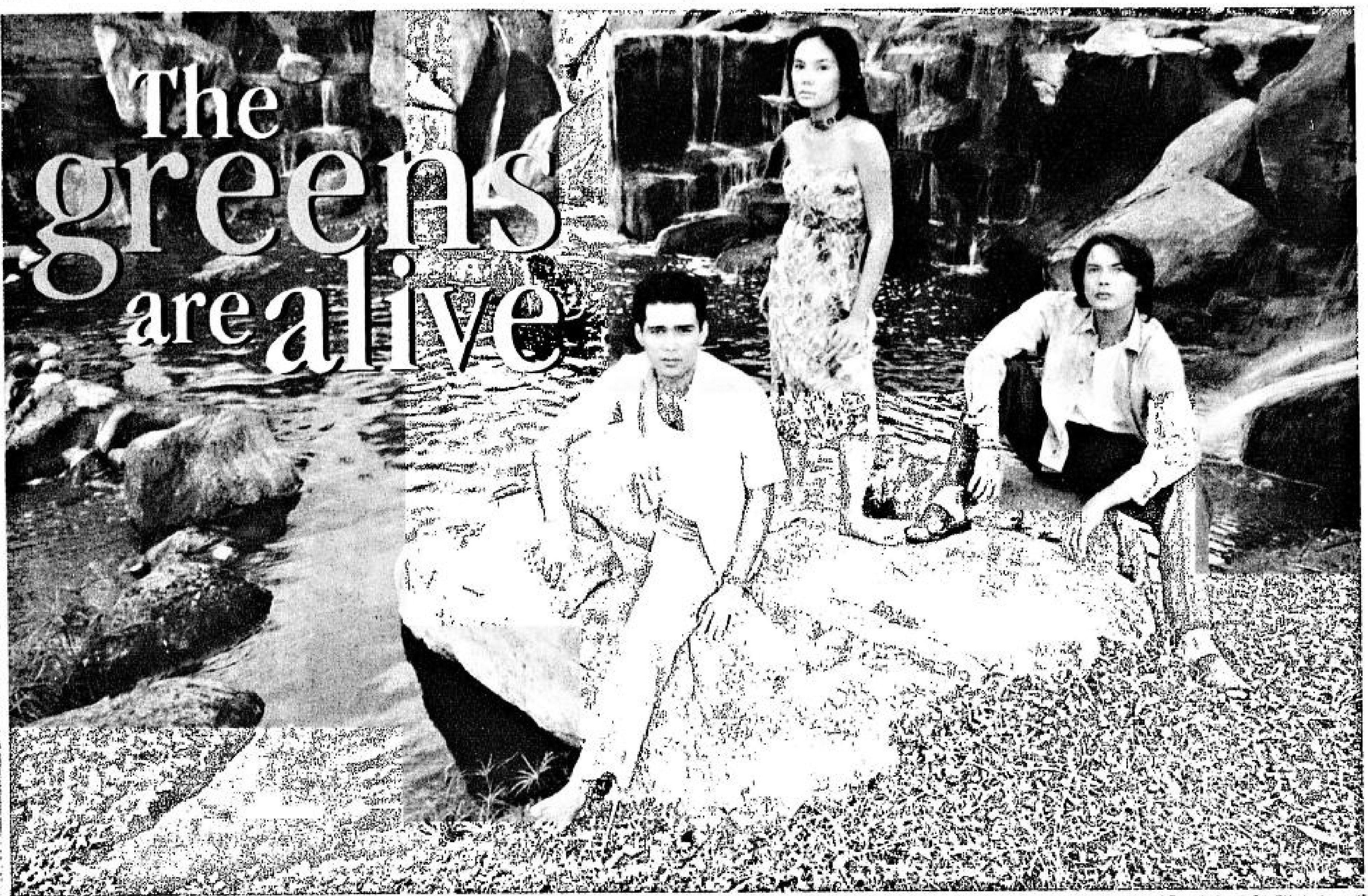
# The greens are alive



**ON MARK:** Mint-green linen polo by U2 (P1,498); pale khaki pants by British India (P2,498). On Olivia: Floral-print skirt (worn as a dress) by British India (P2,898) and multicolor braided belt by U2 (P1,148). On Robert: Mustard-colored tie-dyed shirt with embroidery by Esprit (P3,298) and chocolate-brown drawstring pants by British India (P2,998)

MODELS:
SARA BLACK, MARK JENTES AND ROBERT SPAKOWSKI (ELAN);
AND OLIVIA DAYTIA (UPSTYLE);
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
JHANET AND BRENDA DE RAMA
ESPRIT, BRITISH INDIA AND U2 ARE AVAILABLE
AT CINDERELLA BRANCHES,
AND AT
ESPRIT AND U2 BOUTIQUES

From page J1

The lush 185-hectare, 27-hole championship golf course on the foot of Mount Malarayat in Lipa, Batangas, is a sprawling development that guarantees creature comforts while allowing homeowners and members to relish bucolic bliss.

The country club has massage and sauna rooms, a gym, and vari-sized function rooms. There's a building intended just for kids: the children's center-with kiddie-size furniture, bathroom fixtures and swimming pool. The sports center has facilities for athletic pursuits: basketball, billiards, bowling, darts, table tennis, lawn tennis and squash, and an adult-size swimming pool. There's also an equestrian center for horse lovers.

Of interest to the avid golfer, Hole No. 7 on the Mt. Makulot side of the course was voted Top 500 Best Holes in the World by Golf Magazine. The all-weather course was designed by the J. Michael Poellet Design Group.

Good food goes with the good life. The clubhouse restaurant serves Batangas *bulalo*, *kalderetang kambing*, crisp-fried *tawilis*, crispy garlic chicken... These are but a few of the mouth-watering dishes that, guests swear, make every minute of the 1½-hour-drive from Makati worth the trip.

The Mount Malarayat Country Club is open for associate membership. A condo-type dwelling within the property, The Suites at Mount Malarayat, is nearing completion.

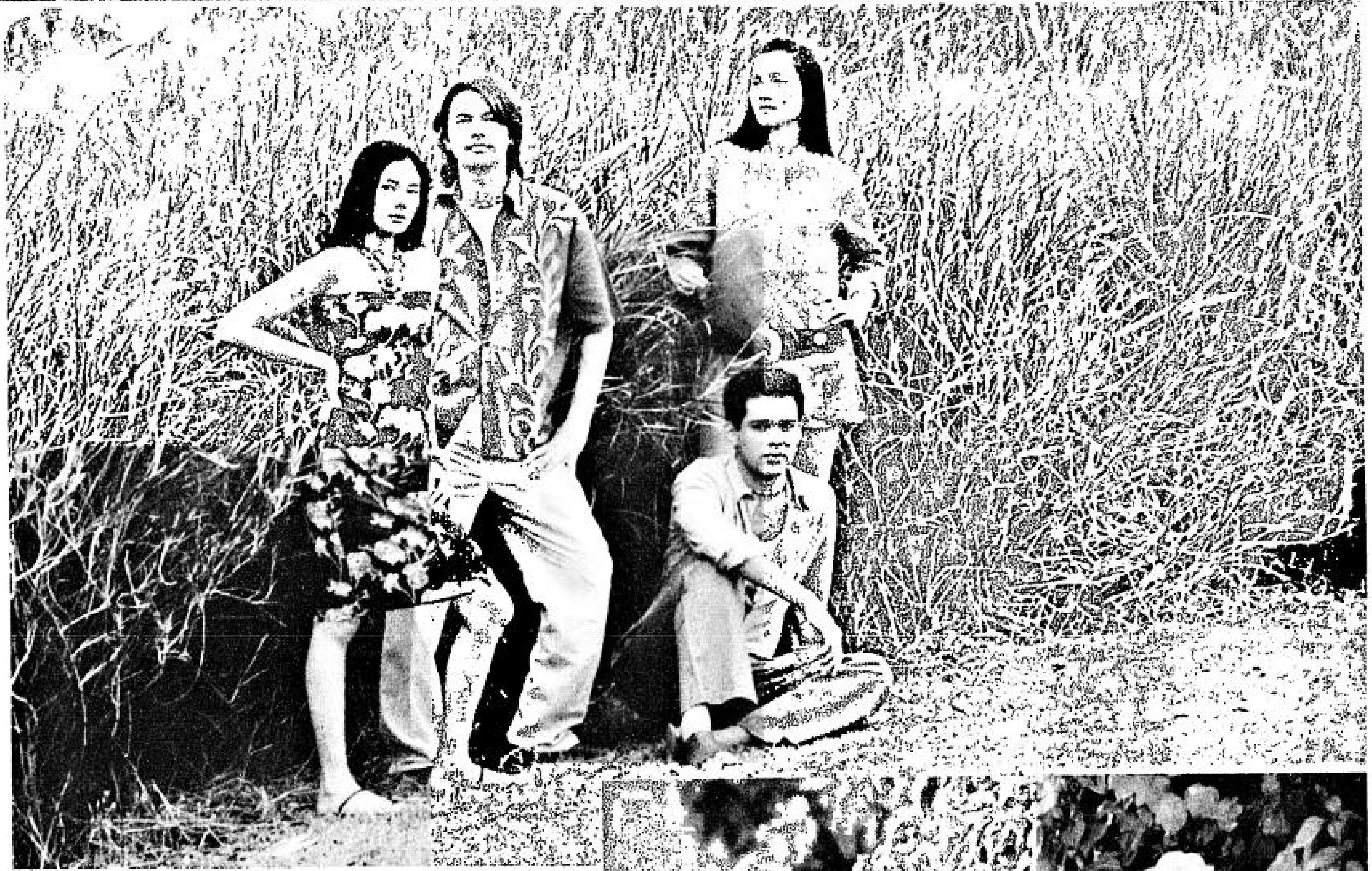
For this spread, the golf course and country club's verdant setting serve as the perfect backdrop for the summer collections of fashion retailer Cinderella's top three brands: Esprit, U2 and British India.

The predominantly earth-toned collections are apt incarnations of the easy, stress-free lifestyle the place represents. Linens and cottons dominate the collections, with an occasional dash of florals and prints in the chiefly solid-colored fabrics.

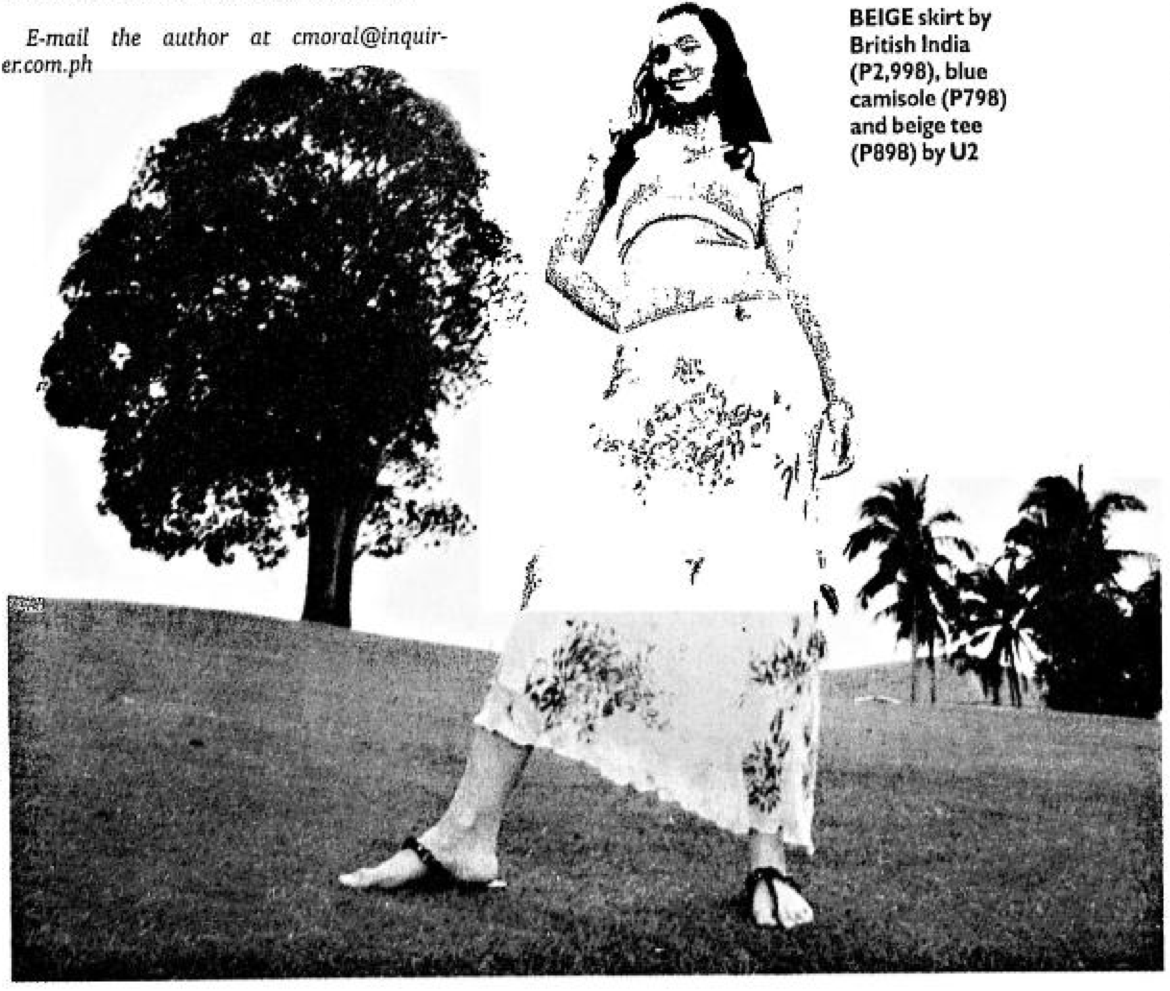
Pant silhouettes are generally loose, and so are the men's shirts. Even for the ladies, the clothes are decidedly feminine, but similarly cut not too close to the body. The results are effortless pieces—cool and natural, just like the surroundings. Ah, the elements of the good life.

*Call the Active Group Inc. at 8937024 to 28 local 257/269 or visit www.activegroup.com.ph*

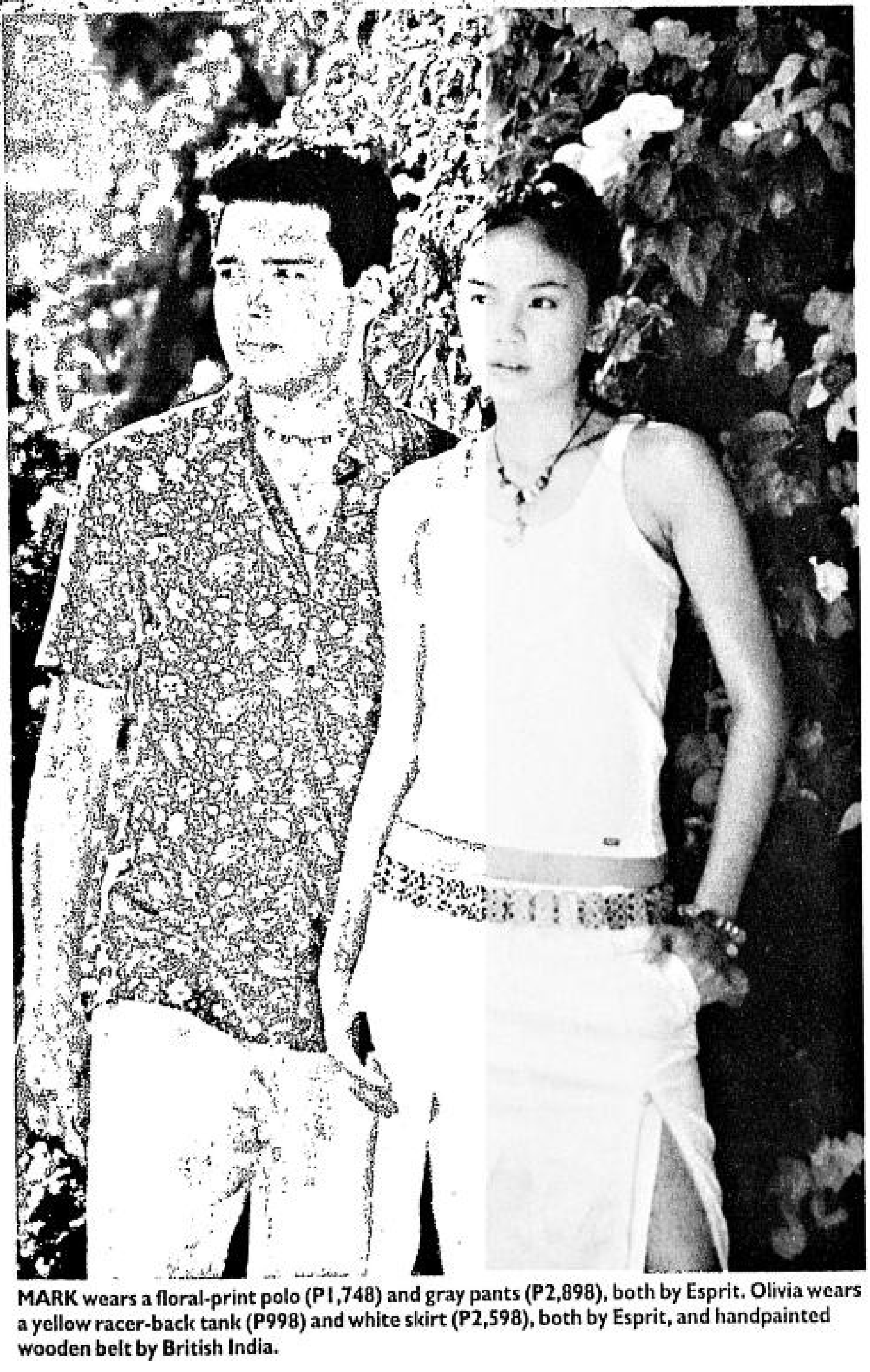
*E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph*



**ON OLIVIA:** Printed tube dress by Esprit (P2,898). On Robert: Chocolate brown polo with aqua-colored appliqués (P1,498) and pale khaki linen pants (P2,498), both by British India. On Mark: Ethnic-print long-sleeve shirt by Esprit (P2,698) and mustard linen pants by British India (P2,698). On Sara: Purple Chinese-collared linen top with embroidery (worn as a dress, P3,498) and brown belt (P1,598), both by British India.



**BEIGE** skirt by British India (P2,998), blue camisole (P798) and beige tee (P898) by U2

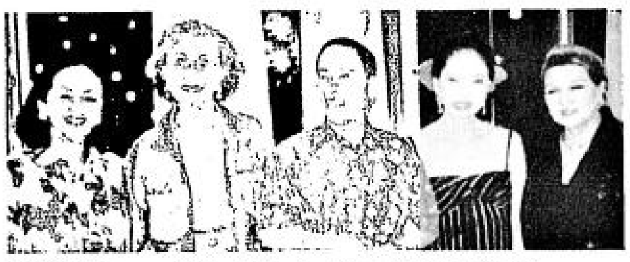


**MARK** wears a floral-print polo (P1,748) and gray pants (P2,898), both by Esprit. Olivia wears a yellow racer-back tank (P998) and white skirt (P2,598), both by Esprit, and handpainted wooden belt by British India.

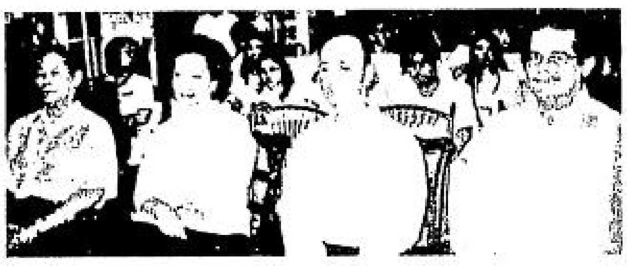
**J. MORENO Foundation scholars from the UP Colleges of Medicine (left) and Fine Arts (right) receiving their second semester awards recently, with Imelda Cojuangco personally distributing the checks**

# Scholarships for art and medical students awarded

**GUESTS at the awarding of J. Moreno Foundation scholarships to the UP College of Medicine and Fine Arts. (Seated) Nenita Floriendo, Offie Recto, Rosito Lesaca, Nini Licaros, Eva Hernandez. (Standing) Alice Briones, host Yaying Dragon, Pitoy Moreno, Carol Garcia and Lety Ruiz**



**NENE Quimson, Vicky Delgado, Pitoy Moreno, Meldy Cojuangco and Nelly Gonzalez**



**SOME of the guests and board of trustees members at the Mass for UP scholars. From left, Tony Lacdao, Elena Fernando, Monchito Locsin and Klaus Freund**

AROUND this time every year, the J. Moreno Foundation scholarships are awarded to deserving arts and medical students of the University of the Philippines.

Spearheaded by founding chair Imelda Cojuangco and Asia's fashion czar Pitoy Moreno, the foundation covers the matriculation expenses of students who are recommended by the respective deans of the UP Colleges of Medicine and Fine Arts. This year, there are 11 medical scholars.

This year's awarding of grants was hosted by Cavite Rep. Rene Dragon and his wife Yaying at their home, with the help of friends Vicky Delgado, Nene Quimson and Nelly Gonzalez. Mass was celebrated and the UP Singing Ambassadors regaled guests with songs.

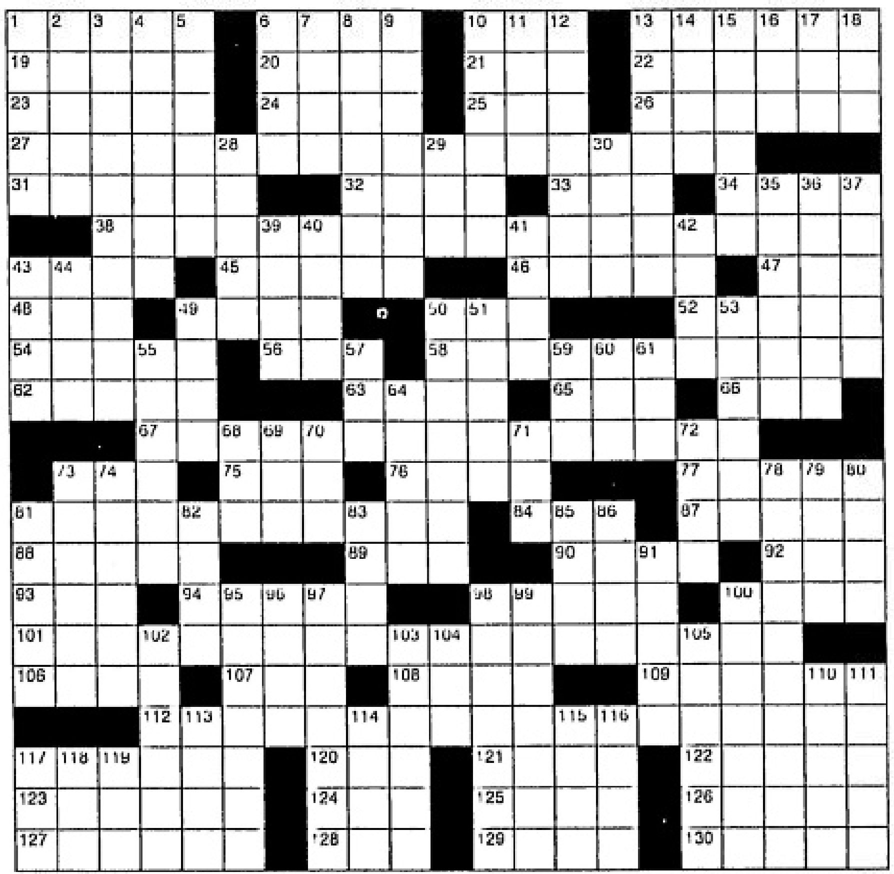
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

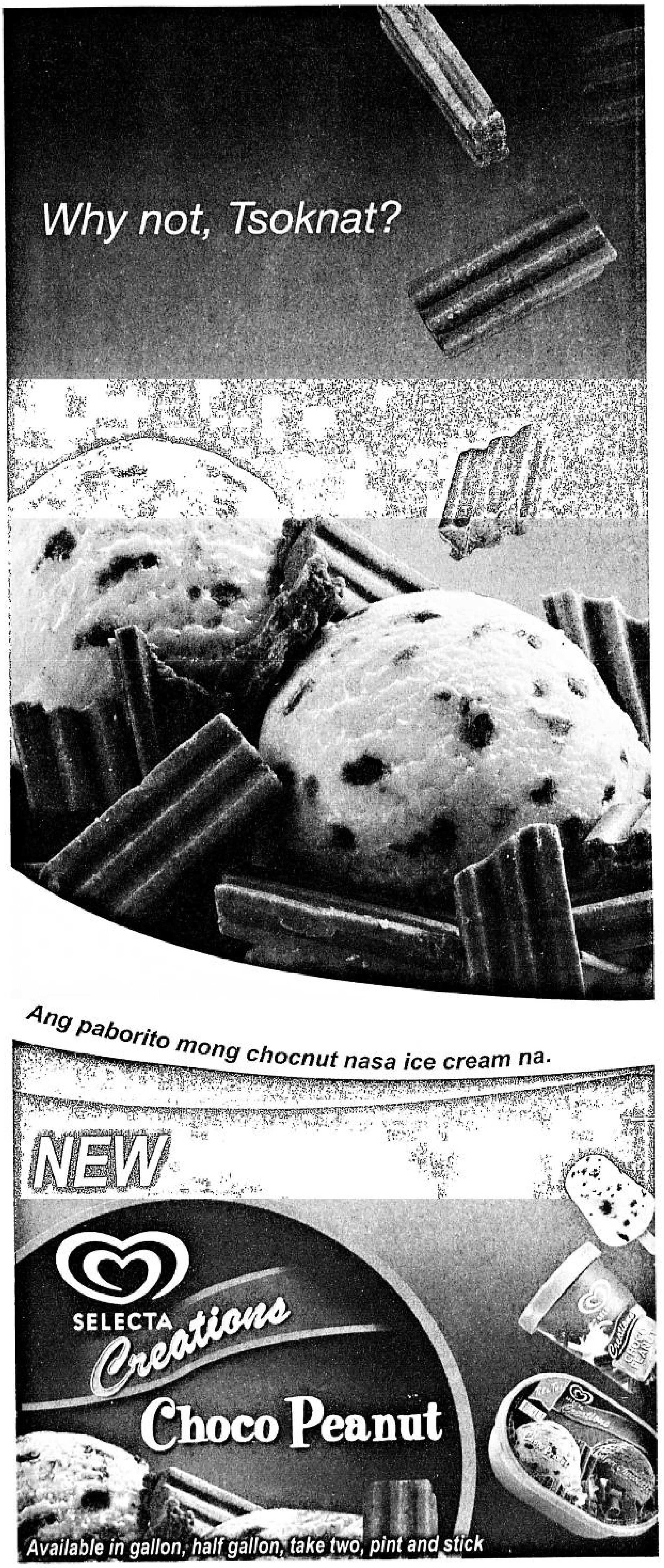
### UNREADY

ACROSS
1 Blue cartoon character
6 Actress Loughlin
10 Race, as a motor
13 Andress of "She"
19 Discussion group
20 — Bator, Mongolia
21 Tony winner Hagen
22 Magician's monologue
23 "I haven't —!" ("No idea!")
24 Dick Tracy's Trueheart
25 "Rugrats" dad
26 Most loyal
27 Start of a riddle
31 Observe
32 Month before Tishri
33 Clothes line?
34 Land surrounded by "agua"
38 Part 2 of riddle
43 In that case
45 Some batteries provide nine
46 "Shame —!"
47 USN officer
48 — Lingus
49 Basilica benches
50 To's partner
52 Accra's land
54 "Superman" star
56 Neptune's realm
58 Part 3 of riddle
62 Attach
63 Swallow quickly
65 By way of
66 "Ciao!"
67 Part 4 of riddle
73 Seattle-to-Phoenix dir.
75 — de Janeiro
76 Classic cookie
77 Perilous
81 Part 5 of riddle
84 Period
87 Statesman Stevenson
88 Atmosphere component
89 Volcanic output
90 Angry crowds
92 Dada artist Jean
93 Grain beard
94 Not rural
98 Heart chambers
100 Spanish articles
101 Start of the riddle's answer
106 Mediocre
107 Kayaker's need
108 To boot
109 Mexico has 31
112 End of answer
117 Record holder
120 Holiday hammerer
121 "Now's — chance!"
122 Series opener
123 More smooth-tongued
124 Feel awful
125 Avenger Peel
126 "Avalon" star Mueller-Stahl
127 River mouths
128 Low grade
129 Low-pitched
130 Midterms, e.g.

DOWN
1 Give rise to
2 Rambo-esque
3 Not educated
4 Alumni event
5 1985 Chevy Chase comedy
6 Guitar's cousin
7 Cassini of fashion
8 Most reckless
9 Shoe parts
10 Steal steer
11 Sundance's girlfriend
12 "Sassy" singer Sarah
13 Fast-moving, musically
14 Scarce
15 See 18 Down
16 Salt Lake City athlete
17 "— Miserables"
18 With 15 Down, atelier
28 Throw forcefully
29 Soccer mom's wheels, for short
30 Depend (on)
35 Unvarying
36 "Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavor" singer Donegan
37 Syrian president
39 Wedding exchange
40 Otherwise
41 Chess piece
42 Hefner or Grant
43 Scarlett O'Hara's home
44 Give ear to
49 Phnom —, Cambodia
50 City in N Texas
51 Gamut
53 Cross-species
55 Decide by ballot
57 Hubbub
59 Sister of Zsa Zsa
60 Slight bite
61 Baby's cry
64 Siouan Indians
68 Prior to, in poems
69 More, in music scores
70 Fast flight
71 Staff partner?
72 Hunks of history
73 Informal response to a dubious claim
74 Tea biscuits
78 Words on the street
79 Corn syrup brand
80 Canine cries
81 Watercraft
82 "Beam —, Scotty!"
83 Director Gus Van —
85 Actor Katz
86 Slave away
91 Light wood
95 Trouble-makers en masse
96 Sitter's challenge
97 Dunce
98 Analyzed in a lab
99 Duo
100 In the dark
102 "Amen"
103 Hem and haw
104 100 percent
105 1994 Julia Sweeney film
110 "Weird" Al Yankovic hit
111 Pelts
113 Eye layer
114 Writer Wiesel
115 TV newsman Brit
116 Swaddle
117 Instant lawn
118 Whopper
119 Right-angled annex



answer on page H2


Why not, Tsoknat?
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Ayala

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**The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra**

conducted by

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**Ryan Cayabyab**

on Tuesday, March 23, 2004, 7:30 pm

Tower One, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

**The public is invited. Free admission.**

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# Sunday LIFESTYLE

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**NEWLYWEDS**
**JB and Tere Garcia (nee de Jesus)**

# *All-night wedding party*

Story on page K3

Shuttlecocks will start flying in Acropolis.

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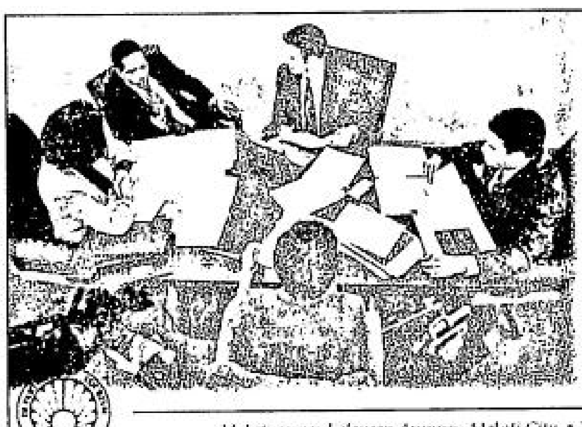

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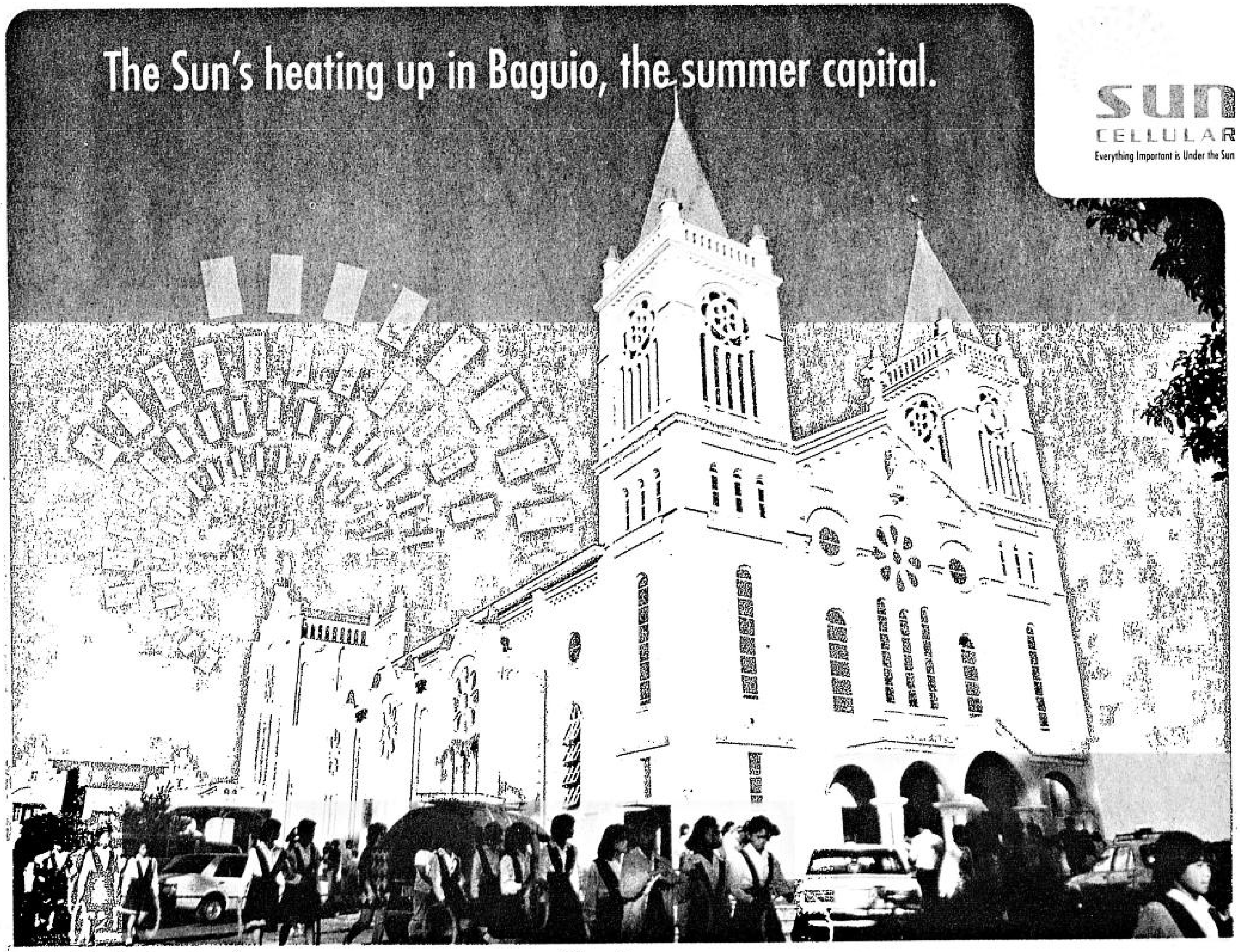

The Sun's heating up in Baguio, the summer capital.

sun CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

**Sun Cellular has doubled its cellsites from the day of launch and will double it again this year.**
At the rate of 100 cellsites per month, millions of people will enjoy one Sun as well as all these other benefits:
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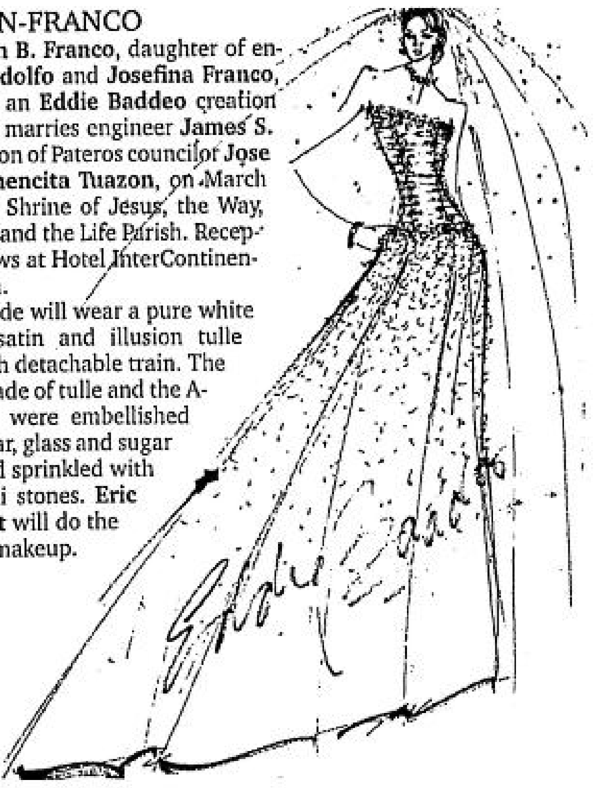
In Baguio, people are seeing the light of one Sun. Soon, so will the rest of the country.

# Milestones

*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the* INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

## TUAZON-FRANCO



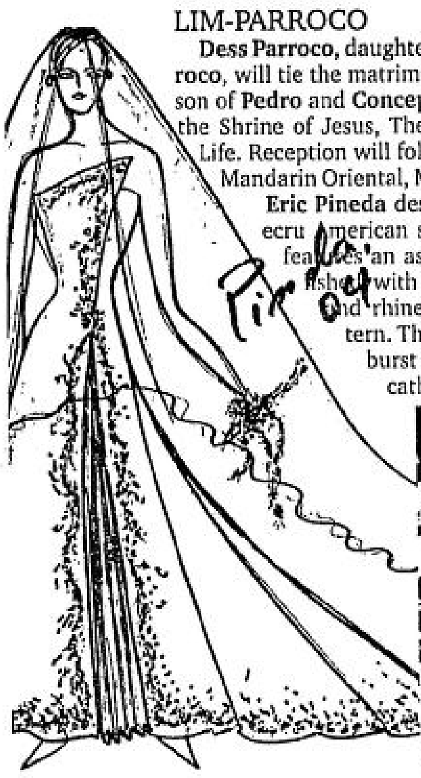
**Roselyn B. Franco**, daughter of engineer **Rodolfo** and **Josefina Franco**, will wear an **Eddie Baddeo** creation when she marries engineer **James S. Tuazon**, son of Pateros councilor **Jose** and **Carmencita Tuazon**, on March 28 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life Parish. Reception follows at Hotel InterContinental Manila.

The bride will wear a pure white duchess satin and illusion tulle gown with detachable train. The bodice made of tulle and the A-line skirt were embellished with caviar, glass and sugar beads and sprinkled with Swarovski stones. **Eric Maningat** will do the hair and makeup.

## JIMENEZ-LACHICA

**Mario Ramos Jimenez**, son of **Romeo** and **Lolita Jimenez** of San Juan (Lapug), Ilocos Sur, will exchange marital vows with **Marie Filamy Petina Lachica**, youngest child of professors **Dante** and **Juliana Lachica** of Rosario, La Union, on March 26 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Pacdal, Baguio City. Reception will follow at Olive Grand Ballroom, Venus Parkview Resort Hotel, Baguio City.

## LIM-PARROCO



**Dess Parroco**, daughter of **Manuel** and **Beth Parroco**, will tie the matrimonial knot with **Ryan Lim**, son of **Pedro** and **Concepcion Lim**, on March 27 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life. Reception will follow at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental, Makati City.

**Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown in ecru American satin. The strapless bodice features an asymmetric neckline embellished with caviar beads, faux pearls and rhinestones in a vine leaf pattern. The skirt has an insert of sunburst pleated gazar leading to a cathedral train.

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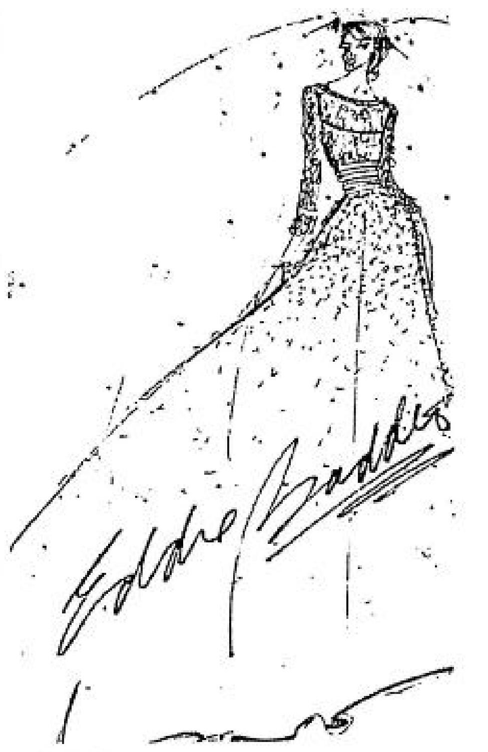
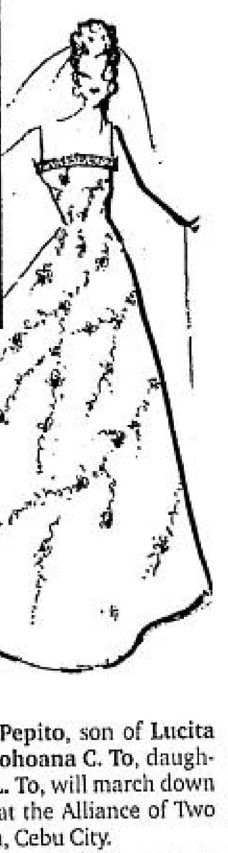


## SY-TAN

**Garry Sy**, son of **Argel** and **Angelita Sy**, and **Katherine Tan**, daughter of **Vincent Henry** and **Victoria Tan**, will tie the knot today at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila.

The bride will wear a beige French chantilly lace and silk gazar gown with fully beaded lace top, and double bias skirt with cathedral train, designed and executed by couturier **Eddie Baddeo**. The event is being organized by **Arnold Cruz**.



## PEPITO-TO

**Harold Gerome R. Pepito**, son of **Lucita Pepito**, and **Michelle Johoana C. To**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Nilo L. To**, will march down the aisle on March 27 at the Alliance of Two Hearts Church, Banawa, Cebu City.

The bride will wear a bustier long gown made from the finest white gazar cloth, hand-painted with flowers all over and beaded with cutbeads, stones and Swarovski crystals. It was designed and created by **Wendell Quisido**, one of Cebu's top designers.

## GO-CRUZ

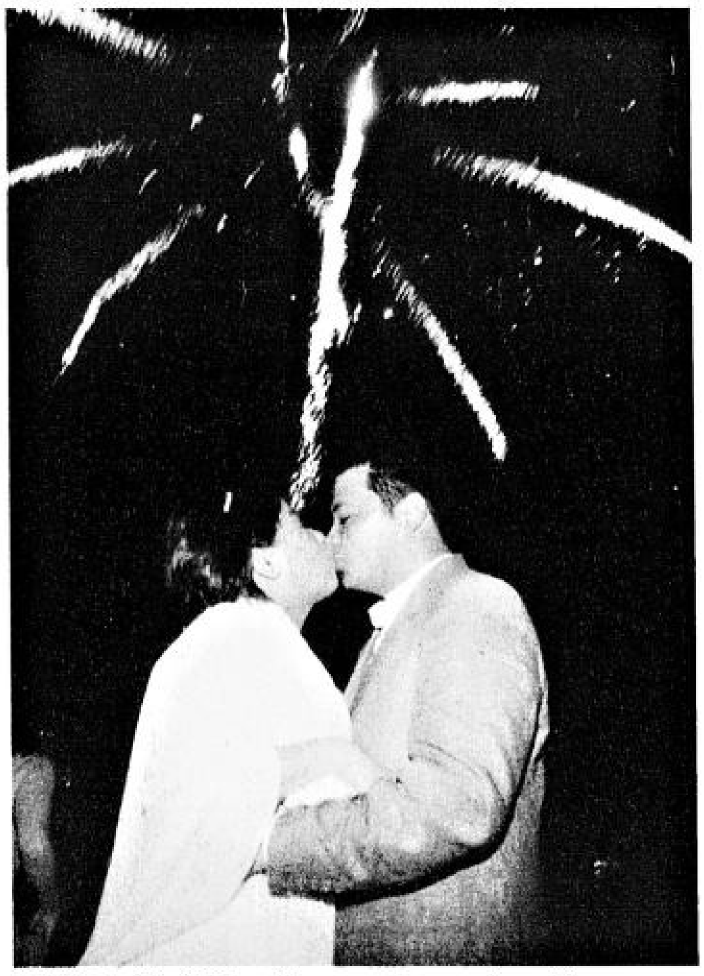
**Wilson Go** will tie the knot with **Mary Rose Cruz** today. Reception will follow at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

**Edwin Tan** designed the gown. **Patrick Rosas** will do the makeup. Photography is by **Jaime Tee** of Studiotech.

## GARCIA-DE JESUS NUPTIALS

# All-night wedding party

NO more drama! JB and Tere strike a pose with their proud parents, BJ and Myrla Bajar and Veekee Abeleda and Roland Garcia


A SIGHT to behold. JB and Tere engage in a passionate kiss as fireworks light up the night sky of Club Punta Fuego in Batangas.

WITH an awesome sunset, the shimmering blue of South China Sea and the majestic mountains of Punta Fuego, Batangas as backdrop, John Baron "JB" Garcia and Tere de Jesus exchanged vows recently before Dr. Nomer Bernardino and Pastor Jonathan Sebastian.

The wedding, with a Moroccan-inspired motif, was followed by a reception at Club Punta Fuego. Dancing and dinner started at 6 p.m. and ended the following morning.

The groom is the son of Victoria and Roland Garcia while the bride is the daughter of BJ and Myrla Bajar.

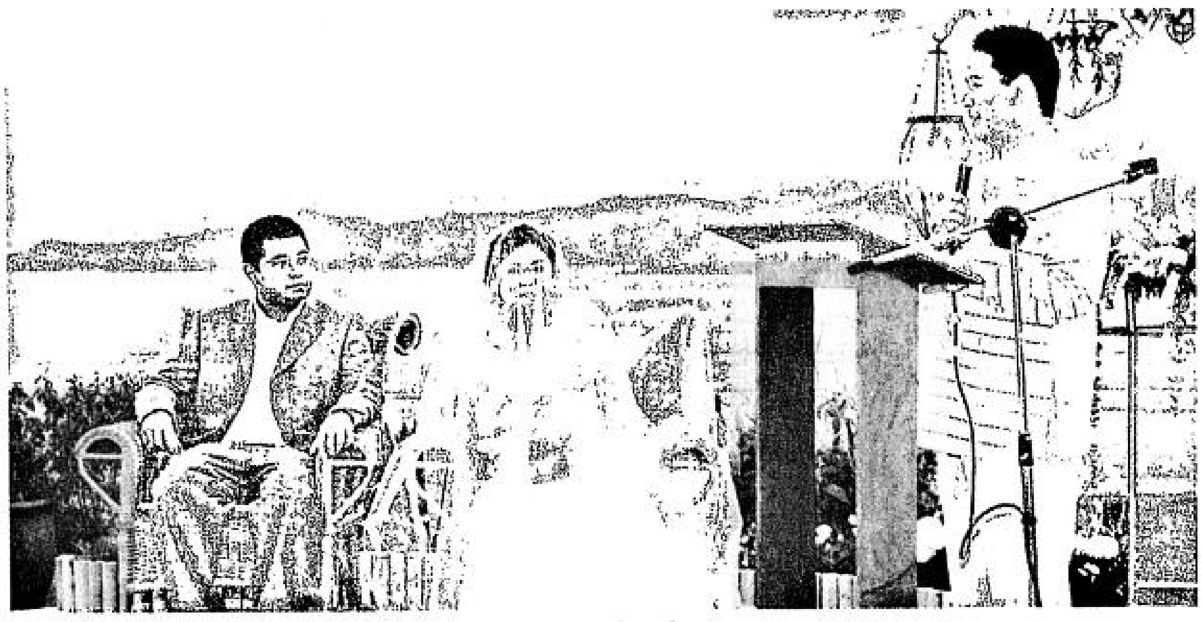
Principal sponsors were Lori Santos and Jet Bajar, Nancy Ong and Carlos Gutierrez, Ellen Lising and Bobby de Jesus, Peggy Bose and Tino Riviello, Baby Ignacio and Nick Medina, Tata Estaniel and Arnel Doria, Vicky Sebastian and Jerome Lim, Norma Navarro and Pete Natividad, Bembot Garcia and Monching Garcia, Ad Aguilar and Romy Salvador, Agnes Gonzales and Ted Ontimare, Precious Rivera and Manny Rivera, and Lydia Soriano and Bibot Gotianum.

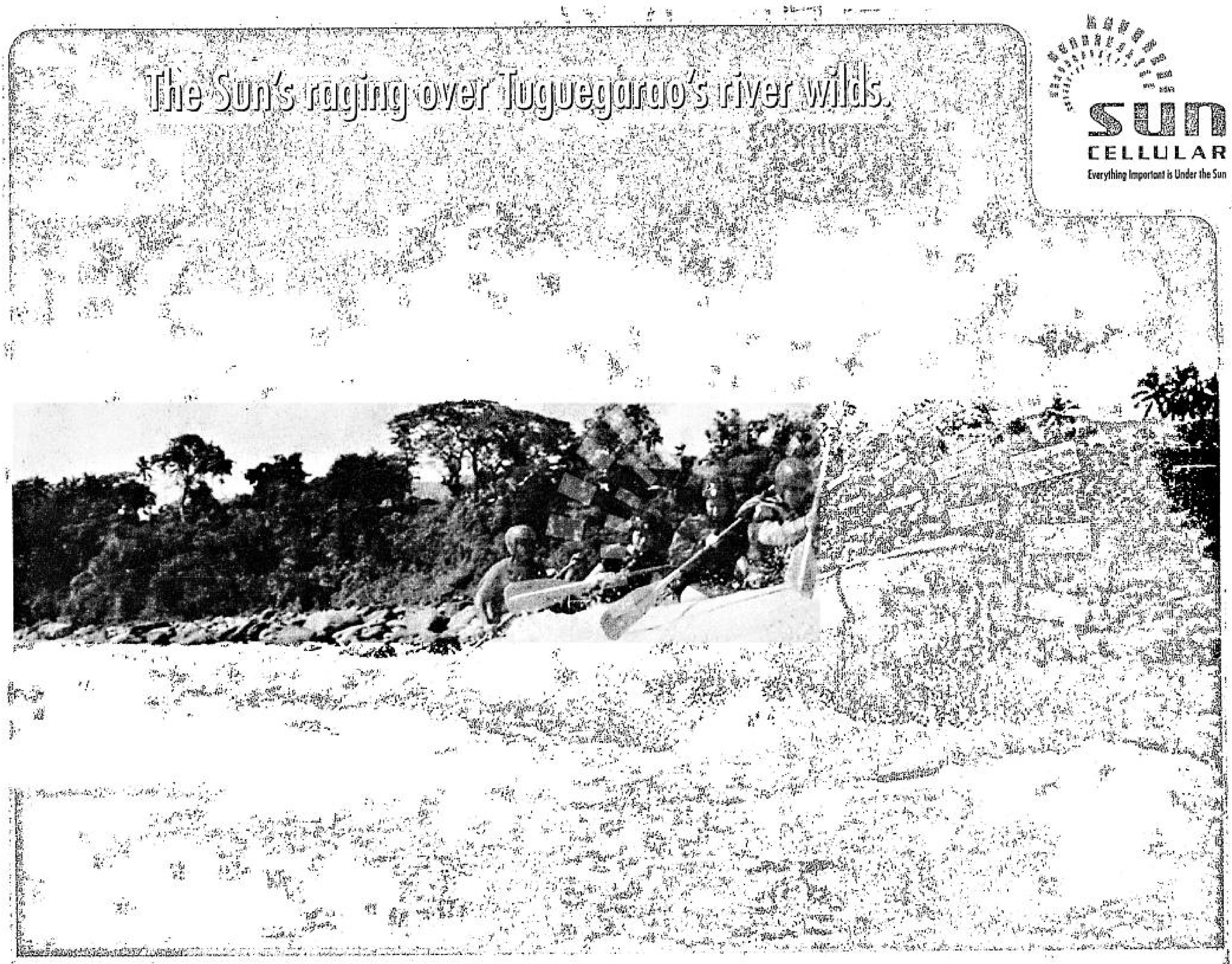
Cord sponsors were Diwata Altura and Tbram Cuyugan while veil sponsors were Liz Aro and Karlo Miguel. Bridesmaids were Sol Aguilar, Kith Vargas, Git Tongko, Garet Gallardo, Missi Braem, Princess Melad, Pepper Pineda and Juliet Hamilton. Groomsmen were Dax Garcia, Mike Abad, Ruel Mojica, Edward de Jesus, Edward Riviello, King Stehmeier, Mike de Jesus and Charlemagne Lim.

Maid of honor was Migs Balein while Rafael Garcia was ring and arrhae bearer. Zoie Garcia Genina Melad, Ayie Melad, Maui Melad and Mayumi Melad were flower girls.

Best man was Jan Garcia while Jasmin Garcia and Marvin Caparros were candle sponsors.

THE COUPLE with the groom's brother, Dax Garcia; (front) Rafael Garcia and Chacha Camacho


MASTER of ceremonies, Dr. Nomer Bernardino, with the newlyweds


The Sun's raging over Tuguegarao's river wilds.
sun
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In Tuguegarao, people are seeing the light of one Sun. Soon, so will the rest of the country.

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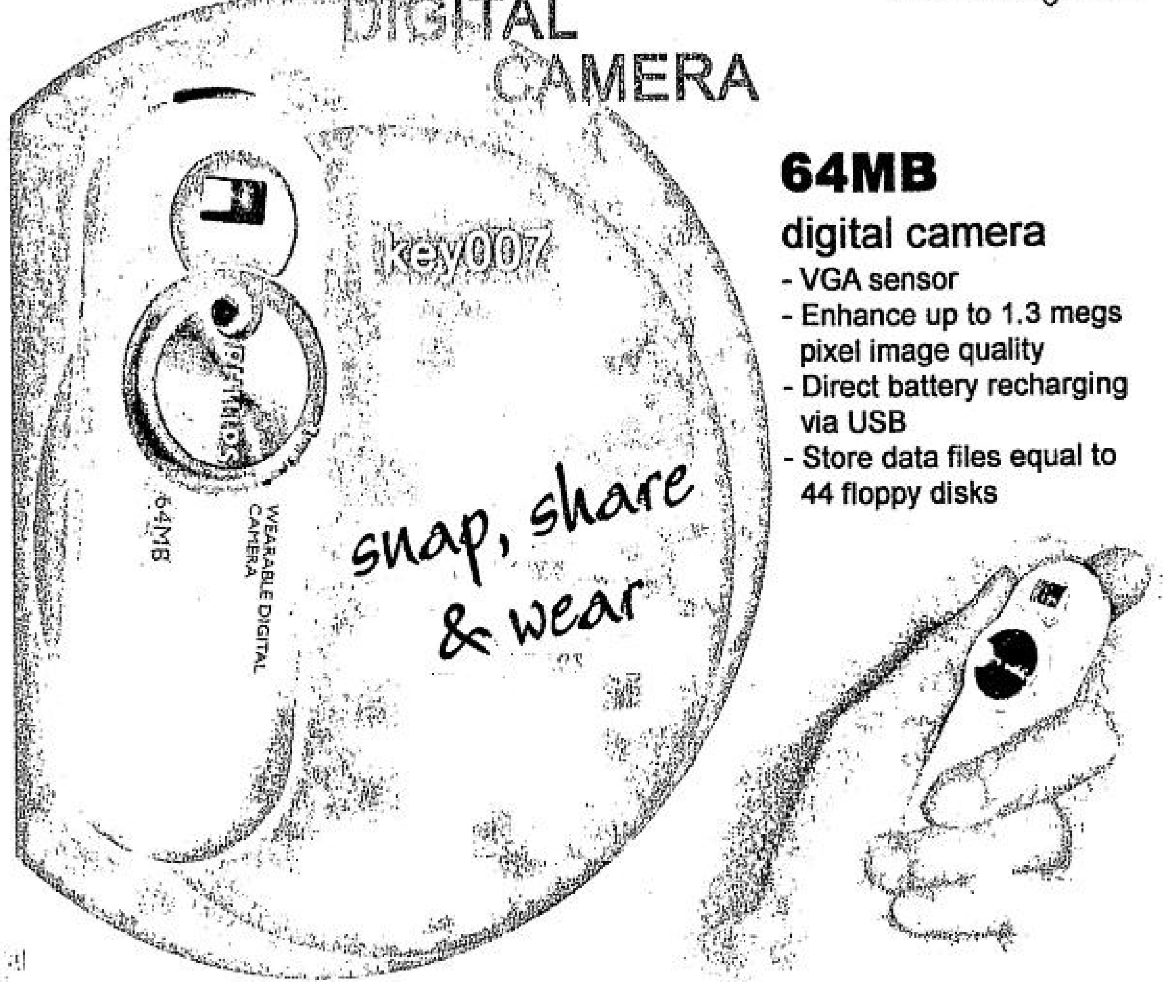

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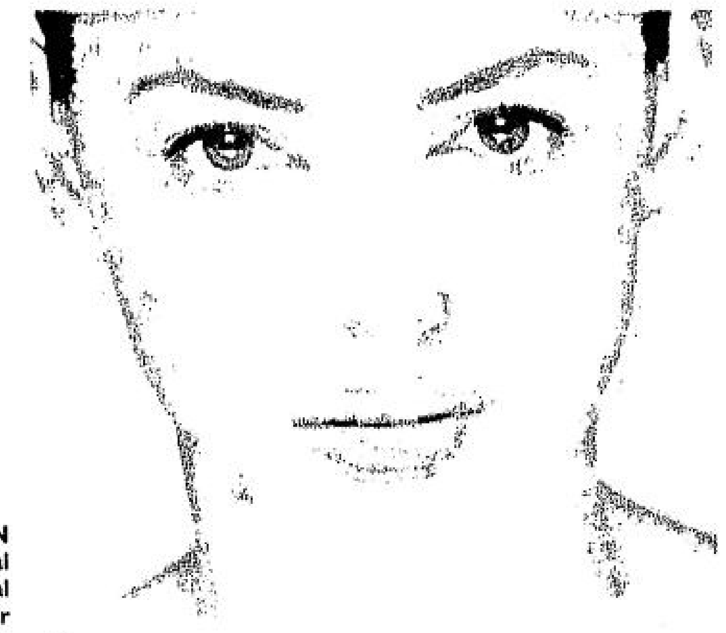


**MANDARIN** Oriental's bridal fair offers trial makeup sitting for future brides.

# Exhibit to help make a 'perfect 10' bride

"PRECIOUS Moments-Year 7," a bridal exhibit, will be held today at Mandarin Oriental Manila on Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

Featured is the "Perfect 10 Bride," a hair and makeup session, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Clipper Lounge presented by Metro Weddings I Do.

Beauty experts from 10 of the biggest beauty salons are participating—Bambi Fuentes, Emphasis, Fanny Serrano Salon, Franck Provost, H Salon, Menage/Manila, Piandre, Propaganda, Ricky Reyes Salon and Tony & Guy Essensuals.

"Perfect 10 Bride" will show how a woman can highlight her best features and camouflage flaws with affordable and accessible products best suited to her skin and hair type. Salon experts will also give advise on the latest trends and techniques in hair and makeup.

"Precious Moments-Year 7" will offer soon-to-wed couples various options and bargains from prestigious suppliers of bridal essentials and services. It brings together under one roof event planners, wedding organizers, cake designers, florists, jewelers, photographers, musicians and chamber choirs, transport services, invitation printers and souvenir suppliers.

Mandarin Oriental will display elegant themes for wedding set-ups.

A bridal fashion show at 6:30 p.m. showcases 10 creations by some of the hottest fashion designers, who will also participate in a bridal forum at 4 p.m. hosted by Apa Ongpin.

The 10 designers are Jun Escario, Rhett Eala, Pepsi Herrera, Rajo Laurel, Tonichi Nocum, Randy Ortiz, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Edwin Tan, Mel Vergel de Dios and Vittorio.

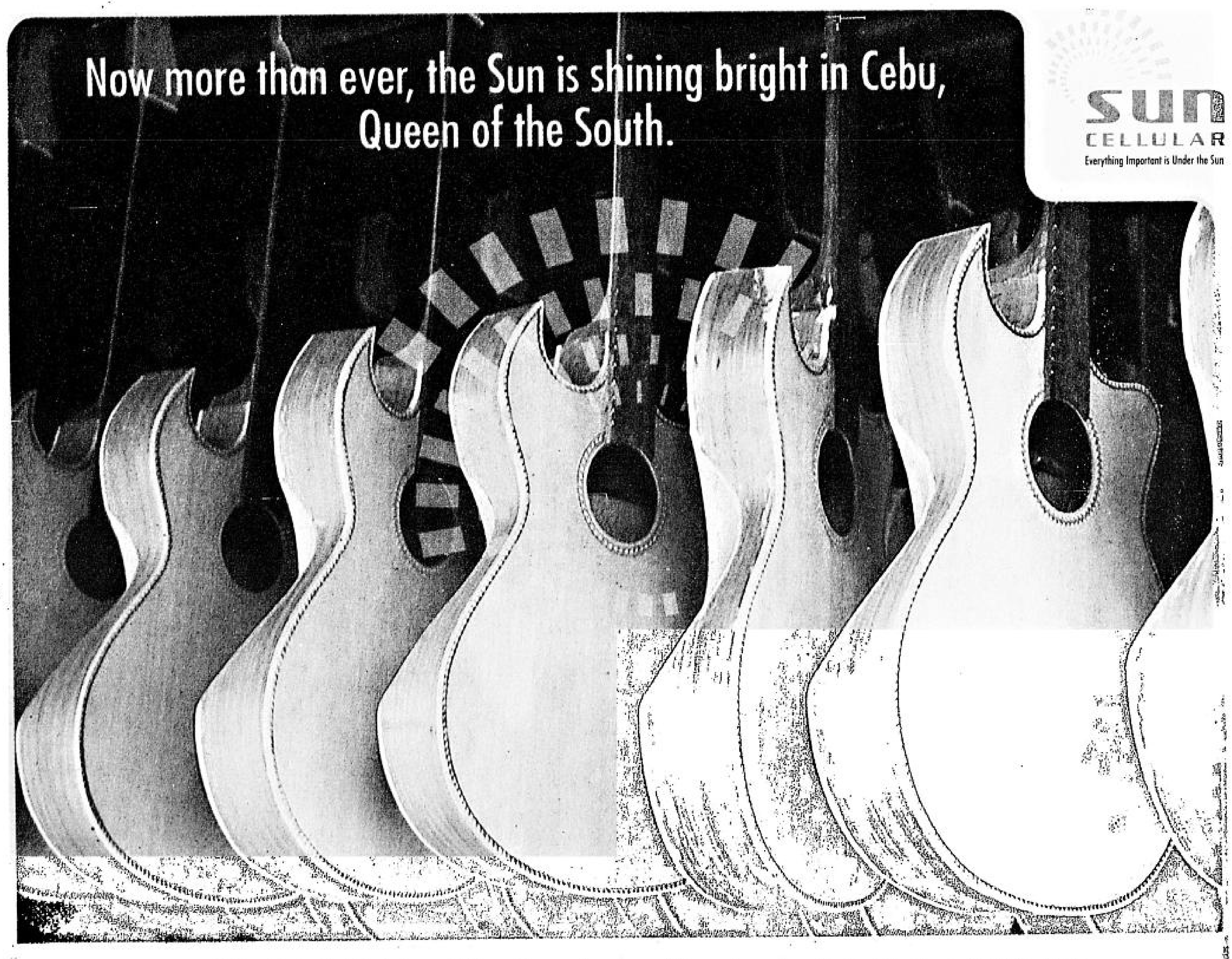
Jackie Aquino directs the show.

Couples who make reservations during the fair for a wedding party of at least 200 people and make a deposit on or before March 24 will get additional benefits. Weddings in April, May, July, October and November entitle the couple to a 5-percent discount on food and 50-percent discount on dry cleaning of bridal gown and the entourage's ensembles.

Those marrying in August and September, or between February and May 2005, will get the same benefits—plus a choice between a complimentary massage for two at The Oriental Spa or champagne for the presidential table for up to 10 persons.

For weddings held in June and December, a 50-percent discount on dry cleaning of the bridal gown and the entourage's ensembles and free corkage for five bottles of regular wines are offered.

Call 7508888 locals 2217 and 2218.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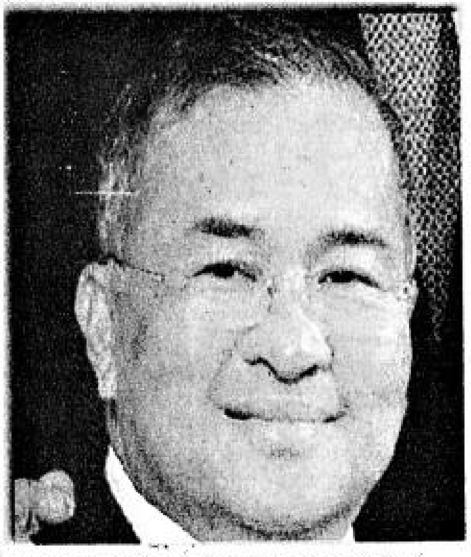
In Cebu, people are seeing the light of one Sun. Soon, so will the rest of the country.

# MEGALINK

# 14 years of excellent network performance



**RAUL B. De Mesa MegaLink Chairman and Bank of Commerce President**

**LORENZO V. Tan, MegaLink President and PNB President & CEO**

AS ATMs have revolutionized banking and delivered anytime anywhere electronic access to bank accounts for the man on the street, people have gotten so used to the reliable instant access to cash as the fast growing volume of ATM transactions of MegaLink would indicate. Now with over 500,000 ATM transactions per day - covering switched transactions alone (ATM transactions made on another bank's ATM) ensuring round the clock reliability of ATM network services has. become paramount. Total customer satisfaction are directly related to the customers' experience in the course of doing an ATM transaction - from the availability, speed and accuracy by which transactions are completed and served, to the location and physical make-up of the ATM and its surroundings.

To ensure that switched transaction services are always available, MegaLink closely monitored and tuned its systems and interfaces with member banks throughout 2003, generating remarkable results: the switch surpassed all network performance indicators posting consistent zero minutes downtime per month since 4th quarter of 2003. The network standard currently allows for 2.3 minutes switch downtime for end of business day processing. Overall network availability with all its member banks exceeded the standard of 98 percent; controllable approval rate exceeded the standard of 96 percent; and overall reply rate, likewise, exceeded the standard of 99 percent.

As MegaLink celebrates its 14 years in electronic banking service, MegaLink recognizes the contributions of its outstanding member banks in 2003:

Philippine National Bank earns the distinction of Highest Network Performance Award in 2003 taking into account the highest rating for ATM host availability at 99.82 percent representing unplanned ATM host downtime of only 16 hours or an average of 2.6 minutes per day for the whole year; the highest rating for controllable approval rate of 99.84 percent indicating that only 16 out of every 10,000 transactions made by PNB cardholders on other banks' ATMs were rejected due to reasons within the bank's control; and second to the highest rating for reply rate at 99.61 percent indicating that only 39 out of every 10,000 transactions made by PNB cardholders on other banks' ATMs did not receive a reply from the PNB bank host. The network standard is 99 percent.

Keppel Bank Philippines receives the distinction of Most Compliant Member Award in 2003, recognizing Keppel Bank's 100 percent and on-time participation in all of MegaLink's mandatory projects and services as of December 2003. Keppel Bank now offers a broad suite of electronic banking services on ATMs for immediate access to accounts, cash and bills payments, point of sale terminals for cashless shopping, Internet payments to complete hassle-free shopping and bill payments on the net; and mobile banking that delivers banking convenience right into your palm on your own time and place. It is among the pilot banks offering Internet payments and mobile banking and is among the first banks that are already undergoing certification for inter-bank funds transfers.

Robinsons Savings Bank receives the Best Selling Onsite ATM Award for 2003 for its ATM located at the Robinson Place Branch located in Padre Faura, Manila City. Robinsons Bank's ATM registered the highest volume of switched transactions on an ATM located within a bank branch out of 1,206 onsite MegaLink ATMs.

Other Banks in the top 10 Best Selling Onsite ATMs include:

2 - Robinsons Savings Bank, Imus, Cavite Branch

3 - Insular Savings Bank, Comembo, Makati City Branch

4 - Keppel Bank Philippines, Zamboanga Branch

5 - Insular Savings Bank, Pasig Branch

6 - Insular Savings Bank, Sangandaan, Kaloocan City Branch

7 - Philippine National Bank, Cavite, EPZA Branch

8 - Bank of Commerce, San Pedro Laguna, Branch

9 - Prudential Bank, Dasmariñas, Cavite Branch

10 - Robinsons Savings Bank, Baguio City Branch

International Exchange Bank receives the Best Selling Offsite ATM Award for 2003 for its off-site ATM located at the Santa Lucia Mall in Cainta, Rizal which registered the highest volume of switched transactions on an ATM located outside a bank branch out of 370 offsite ATMs.

Other top 10 Best Selling Offsite ATMs include:

2 - United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) ATM located at the Target Mall, Cainta, Rizal

3 - Robinsons Savings Bank ATM located at the Robinsons Galleria, Pasig City

4 - UCPB ATM located at SM City, Davao City

5 - UCPB ATM located at Metropolis Mall, Alabang

6 - UnionBank ATM located at SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa, Manila

7 - UCPB ATM located at the Gotesco Grand Central, Kaloocan City

8 - Equitable PCI Bank ATM located at SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

9 - UCPB ATM located at the Jenra Mall, Angeles City, Pampanga

10 - DBP ATM located on Dela Rema St., Iloilo City

United Coconut Planters Bank receives a special award for Most Successful Deployment of Offsite ATMs in 2003, contributing the highest number of best selling ATMs in the network, with 25 out of MegaLink's Top 50 Offsite ATMs as of December 2003. The total number of UCPB ATMs included in the bestseller list has effectively doubled from 13 ATMs in January 2003 to 25 ATMs in December 2003.

Formal awarding ceremonies will be held at MegaLink's 14th Anniversary celebration on March 24, 2004 with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes as Guest of Honor.

Other highlights of the anniversary celebration include:

- Launch of MegaLink's Internet payment service via The Port (as pilot gateway connection) with the following pilot bank participants: Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, International Exchange Bank, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank Philippines, Philippine National Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank
- Launch of MegaLink's mobile banking service via Smart (as pilot mobile partner) with the following pilot bank participants: Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank Philippines, Philippine National Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank
- Formal welcome for One Network Bank as MegaLink's newest Associate Member

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# MegaLink: Making universal sharing possible

Formed in September 1989 by Equitable Bank, Far East Bank & Trust Co., Philippine National Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank, MegaLink became the first operational shared ATM network in the Philippines

THERE is no doubt that the MegaLink network lives up to its name, since this particular ATM network is the "mega" link to various other networks. In the Philippines, MegaLink is the only ATM switch with inter-network connections to both BancNet and Expressnet, making access to over 4,700 ATMs nationwide possible.

Formed in September 1989 by Equitable Bank, Far East Bank & Trust Co., Philippine National Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank, MegaLink became the first operational shared ATM network in the Philippines.

It was launched on March 19, 1990 initially sharing 88 ATMs, a base of 130,000 cardholders, averaging 200 transactions a day. Today, the numbers have significantly increased. The consortium had total sign-ups of 33 member banks which had trimmed down to 22 due to mergers and acquisitions. The newest member to join is One Network Bank, the largest rural bank in the country with 46 branches all over Mindanao.

To date, the network has of over 1,500 ATMs nationwide, a base of 7.3 million cardholders, processing over 400,000 transactions a day. The network even has mobile ATMs from its member bank UCPB, which may be transported to any location of choice, wherever an ATM is needed for the occasion.

## MegaLink's Role

"As an electronic banking network, it is MegaLink's role to be relevant to its member banks and enable them to serve their customers through secure, reliable, convenient, efficient and cost-effective electronic banking channels." Says Criselda Santillan, MegaLink's general manager.

Thus the company has focused on total quality management, process improvement and multi-delivery channel strategy to include: ATMs, POS terminals, the telephone, the Internet and mobile phones.

## Universal Sharing of Services

Within the network, the members share common services and infrastructure to be able to serve their cardholders: ATM transactions to include withdrawals and credit card advances, balance inquiries, intra-bank funds transfers, checkbook and statement requests, bills payment to 50 institutions.

From the time MegaLink was launched in 1990, its fundamental belief had been in universal sharing and cooperation through inter-linkages in order to achieve expansion of network reach, range of services, and performance efficiencies, while maintaining the integrity and competitive positioning of its members.

This belief has led to interconnections with BancNet and Expressnet for ATM transactions. MegaLink cardholders can use their ATM cards to make ATM transactions such as balance inquiries and withdrawals at BancNet and Expressnet ATMs (limited to BPI and Banco de Oro ATMs only). On the other hand, cardholders of these banks can use all of MegaLink's ATMs as well.

MegaLink cardholders can also use their ATM card to make debit purchases using POS terminals at more than 400 merchant locations, using the PayLink service. This has been enabled by MegaLink's interconnection with Equitable Card Network.

PhoneLink is a shared MegaLink service for ATM cardholders to do phone banking to inquire their balance, intrabank funds transfers, checkbook and statement requests and pay their bills.

## Multi-Delivery Channel Strategy and New Services

In the last year, MegaLink has worked closely with its member banks to further expand its services across new delivery channels through new partner connections. On the occasion of MegaLink's

UNIVERSAL/L2

# The future of ATMs

For banks, ATMs have become the more cost-efficient channel compared to setting up physical branches by which to reach more customers and service their needs.

IN AN interview with Raul B. De Mesa (MegaLink chair and Bank of Commerce president) and Lorenzo V. Tan (MegaLink president and PNB president and CEO), the MegaLink executives give their views on the ATMs and how they will continue to be help provide the Filipino cardholders' electronic banking needs.

Q: What are your views on ATMs and related electronic banking services in the Philippines?

Raul B. De Mesa (RDM): Banks have used ATMs to provide greater convenience to their customers by allowing 24 hour access to cash. By collaborating with other banks and establishing ATM networks, they have in effect widened the reach of the network allowing access to cash not only anytime but also anywhere. MegaLink has pushed this further expanding network reach for its 7.3 million cardholders by inter-connecting with both BancNet and Expressnet.

Lorenzo V. Tan (LVT): ATM is the pioneering product and channel by which banks have crossed the confines of brick-&-mortar and banking hours to provide 24x7 service to our customers. It is considered as one of banks' important channels of reaching out to customers so that they can have multi-channel choices in which to do their banking transactions. In the Philippines, ATMs are still the most widely used channel, next to bank branches, thanks also in large part to the establishment of ATM-shared networks or consortia that have made ATMs almost ubiquitous to the ordinary bank customer.

For banks, ATMs have become the more cost-efficient channel compared to setting up physical branches by which to reach more customers and service their needs. While the emergence of new technology such as Internet and mobile banking have given customers greater choices by which to conduct their financial transactions, ATM banking remains to be the more popular and widely-used alternative channel as banks undertake migration strategies to lower servicing costs and make ATMs more familiar to bank customers.

I believe ATM banking will still continue to be a growth area for banks, as more customers become more familiar with their convenience features, and as additional services, whether bank or non-bank related, become available through ATMs.

Q: How do you see ATMs evolving in the future?

RDM: With the introduction of more ATM transactions such as payments, etc., banks have further expanded the functionality and access to accounts on the ATMs. Thus, ATMs are now used to also accept bill payments to utilities, etc., as well as to sell prepaid values for mobile phone credits, Internet access etc.

With the introduction of web-based ATMs the customer interface becomes

ATM/ L3

## ePLDT ensures business continuity for MegaLink

ePLDT VITRO

Automated transactions are widespread in the Philippines. The convenience of electronic financial transactions spurred quick adoption. Because of this, businesses are also cognizant of the need for uninterrupted business operations, especially in uncertain times when disasters may happen.

Leading banking consortium MegaLink has signed up with ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of telecommunications giant PLDT for disaster recovery services at the VITRO™ Data Center facility.

It initially involves the recovery of MegaLink's operations, with a backup site at ePLDT's VITRO™ Data Center. With MegaLink servicing more than 500,000 transactions a day, the agreement with ePLDT intends to ensure business availability and minimize service interruption.

Thus far, MegaLink is the only consortium linked with both BancNet and Expressnet, extending its network reach to more than 4,500 ATMs nationwide. To serve its member banks' six million cardholders, MegaLink seeks to ensure 24 hour, year round availability of its mission-critical applications. The VITRO™ Data Center's disaster recovery facility is one of the measures that will allow MegaLink to meet this business objective.

"Barring a total disaster at the MegaLink current site, MegaLink's system is currently able to sustain any component failures without interruption of service because of multiple redundancies in the network's switch configuration," Cris Samillan, MegaLink general manager said. "Colocating MegaLink's backup equipment at ePLDT's VITRO™ Data Center, with its state-of-the art fully redundant support facilities, will ensure MegaLink's continued operation even in the event of a major disaster."

"ePLDT is committed to provide dependable and reliable backup and disaster recovery services to the banking and financial services industry," Ray Espinosa, ePLDT President said. "We are very honored for having been chosen by MegaLink as its provider of backup and disaster recovery services in order to ensure business continuity."

VITRO™ Data Center serves as MegaLink's alternate head office site. VITRO™ simulates an environment similar to MegaLink's head office, enabling MegaLink to seamlessly transfer operations and perform regular business operations during disaster. This includes relevant services such as server space, redundant network connectivity and office space complete with desktops, data ports and telephone lines.

"As always, we serve to meet MegaLink's expectations," Espinosa said. "We intend to have a fruitful relationship with MegaLink and are honored for being entrusted with disaster recovery service for their mission-critical business operations."

VITRO™ Data Center is the first and only ISO 9001:2000 certified Internet data center in the Philippines. Adhering to world standards of data center operations, VITRO™ provides co-location, hosting, managed security and other managed services.

VITRO™ has expertise in hosting various platforms, including IBM pSeries (RS/6000), Sun Solaris, HP-UX, other Unix derivatives, Intel on Microsoft and Linux, and IBM mainframes and iSeries (AS/400). Having established expertise in the field, the VITRO™ Disaster Recovery Facility is also manned round-the-clock by skilled personnel in a secure data center environment, and can provide network facilities through its carrier partners.

VITRO's™ secure data center environment centers on an uninterruptible power supply, with features for the seamless power transfer and safeguards against surges and fluctuations. The building is equipped with a building management system that includes fire suppression, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning. The structure was purpose-built to withstand an intensity 8 earthquake.

About ePLDT:

ePLDT, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is an information and communications technology company providing enabling infrastructure and services focusing on next-generation communications, connectivity and content to enterprises and consumers. More at http://www.epldt.com.

About VITRO™ Data Center:

ePLDT operates VITRO™ Data Center, the Philippines' first industrial-strength Internet data center granted pioneer status by the Philippine Board of Investments. It is currently the only IDC to comply with ISO 9001:2000 certification standards. VITRO™ Data Center offers a full range of data center services, including co-location and hosting solutions, managed security solutions, business continuity and recovery solutions, all housed in a secure infrastructure. More at http://www.vitro.epldt.com

About MegaLink:

Formed in September 1989 and formally launched on March 19, 1990, MegaLink became the first operational shared ATM network in the Philippines. The network has 21 member banks, 1,439 ATMs nationwide, a base of 6.7 million cardholders, processing over 500,000 transactions on peak days with an average of 270,000 transactions a day.

As an electronic banking network, it is MegaLink's role to be relevant to its member banks and enable them to serve their customers through secure, reliable, convenient, efficient and cost-effective electronic banking channels. Thus the company has focused on total quality management, process improvement and multi-delivery channel strategy.

MegaLink member banks include: Asiatrust Bank; Bank of Commerce; Development Bank of the Philippines; Equitable PCI Bank; Equitable Savings Bank; GSIS Family Bank; International Exchange Bank; Insular Savings Bank; Keppel Bank Philippines; LBC Bank; Maybank Philippines; Pacific Ace Savings Bank; Philam Savings Bank; Philippine National Bank; Philippine Veterans Bank; Premiere Development Bank; Prudential Bank; Queen City Development Bank; Robinsons Savings Bank; Union Bank of the Philippines; and United Coconut Planters Bank.

# MegaLink: Making Universal ...

From page L1

14th anniversary this March, MegaLink launches two new services - Internet payments and mobile banking. These new services once again leverage on the core competencies and strengths of each partner to enable convenient, anytime, anywhere, anyhow banking for the ATM cardholders.

MegaLink's partnership with The Port, an Internet payment gateway, enables cardholders to pay their bills and shop on the internet, using their ATM card. MegaLink partners with Smart to allow users to check their bank balance, make checkbook and statement requests and reload their Smart Money and Smart Buddy. This is the first operational interconnection between a telecommunications company and an ATM network.

Within the year, MegaLink will launch its inter-bank funds transfer service. Cardholders will be able to electronically transfer funds from one MegaLink bank ATM account to another using the ATM.

Settlement Risk Management

Another focus area for the network had been to ensure that participating banks are protected in terms of settlement risk. So far, this has resulted to MegaLink's settlement risk management strategies which include:

(1) Revised settlement and risk management policies which define how the network participants share in the risk that may be incurred in case any bank is unable to meet its settlement obligations;

(2) An Exposure Limit Management System which enables us to electronically set exposure limits per bank based on transaction trends, monitor actual volumes against these limits and notify as well as disconnect, if need be, banks which have breached their exposure limit;

(3) Operational since September 2003, MegaLink is the first non-bank institution to join the Philippine Payments and Settlements System (PhilPaSS), the country's real-time gross settlement systems. The electronic settlement facility under PhilPaSS enables interbank settlement of the MegaLink's network's net funds and fees by directly debiting or crediting to a member bank's demand deposit account with BSP approximating real time. This reduces transaction processing and financial settlement risks among member banks and significantly improve inter-bank settlement operations with manual processing minimized.

### The MegaLink Organization

The MegaLink board and executive committee consists of member bank CEOs and COOs, supported by a management committee composed of the senior business executives of the banks, and an audit committee composed of the heads of internal audit.

The current executive committee is chaired by Raul de Mesa (president of Bank of Commerce), with Lorenzo Tan (president and CEO of Philippine National Bank) as president, Justo Ortiz (chair and CEO of Union Bank of the Philippines) as corporate secretary, Antonio Go (chair of Equitable PCI Bank) and Simon Paterno (president and CEO of Development Bank of the Philippines) as members.

### Core Competencies

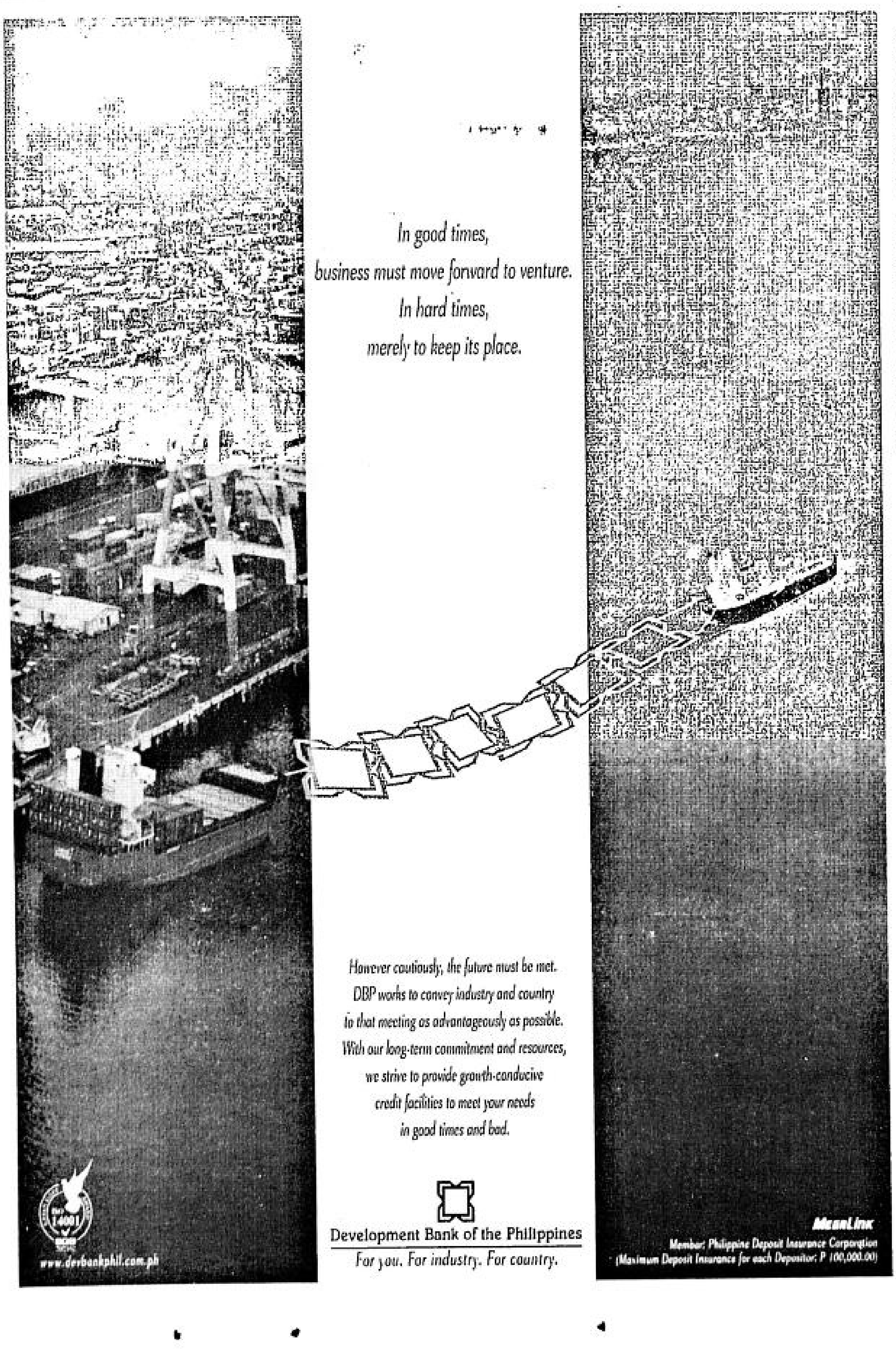
Over the years, the following core competencies have been developed by MegaLink:

(1) Electronic transaction routing - The member banks' systems are connected to a common MegaLink system using fault tolerant and reliable Stratus hardware and IST software, to enable banks to share services across the network. MegaLink monitors and tune the banks' connections to ensure network availability for the cardholders;

(2) Net/Gross Settlement Reporting - The network generates the settlement reports to ensure accurate and efficient settlement across banks;

(3) Back-office Support - Aside from technical support for connections, MegaLink likewise develops common support systems such as information systems covering transactional and terminal statistics and other data for use of member banks. Reconciliation systems have also been deployed to assist banks in automating their settlement and reconciliation processes. Customer handling, facilitation of reconciliation cases, training and orientations are likewise handled;

(4) Policy and Standards Formulation, Coordination and Implementation - The network remains to be a trusted venue for competing banks to collaborate with each other in the formulation, coordination and implementation of policies and standards in areas of technical specifications, service functionalities, security, service levels and customer handling.



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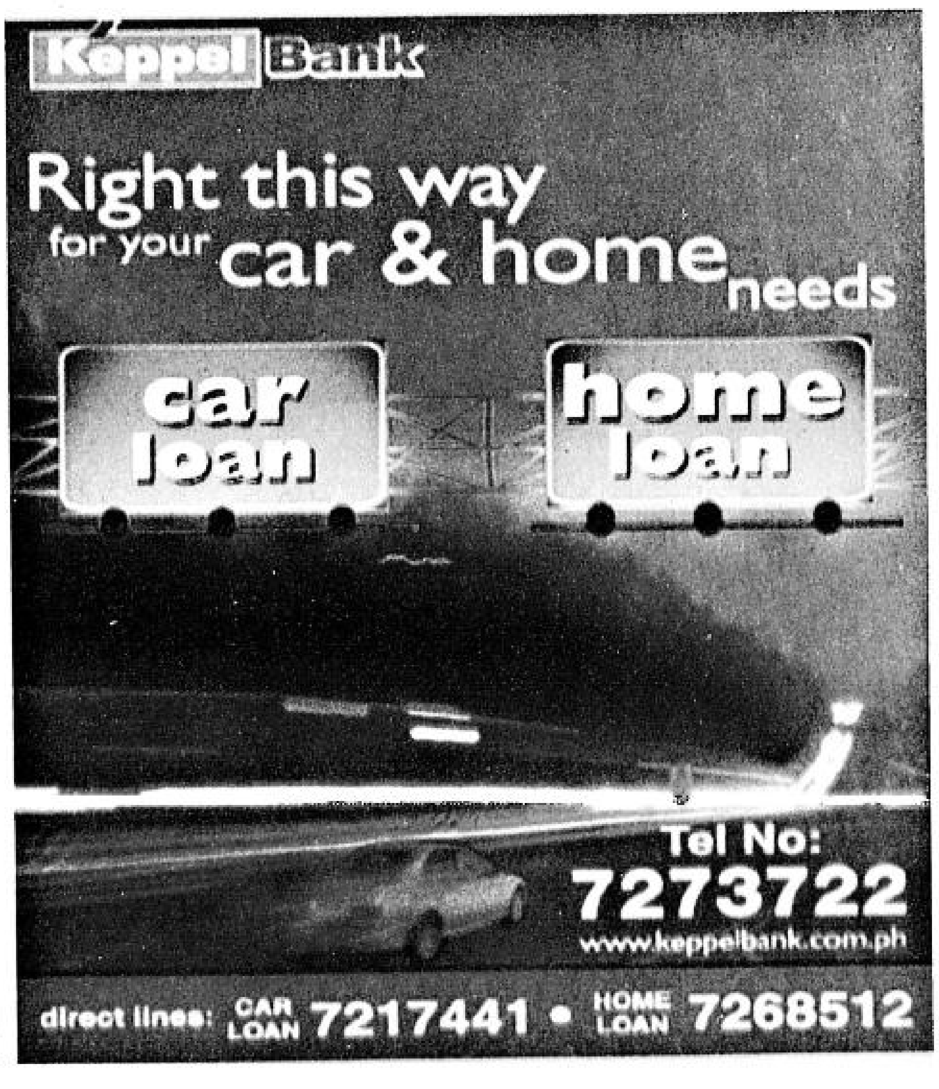

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# The future of ATMs

From page L2

more colorful and user friendly such that more bank services may also be offered by the bank interactively. The ATM functionality may also be modified more easily from the Bank's central location such that new services and even time-bound product promotions may be pushed by the Banks using ATMs. For instance, ATMs may be used to sell tickets for various cultural shows, concerts, or sports activities with the ATM printing the ticket on the ATM receipt. This further takes advantage of the online connection of the ATM to the central network of banks and their service partners in other industries.

In future ATMs will be ubiquitous, probably doubling in number in the country just like we see them on every street corner in HongKong. However, in the Philippines, we see the ATM transactions being made available also on other channels such as POS, telephone, mobile phones and the Internet, further increasing the customer convenience of owning an ATM account.

LVT: ATMs are already evolving from merely cash dispensing machines to more effective channels for cross-selling other bank products and services and in reinforcing brand image.

While banks are currently pushing for the increased usage of ATMs for bills payments, balance inquiries and funds transfers to de-clog transactions at branch lobbies, generate revenues, and reduce servicing costs, we are also seeing initiatives in the sale of non-traditional bank products through self-service machines, such as pre-paid cards, theatre tickets and the like.

ATMs will also be used more extensively for product advertising because of their high impact and lower costs. Because of customers' greater attentiveness in using ATMs, these can be used as an effective medium not only for advertising but also as a point of contact for winning new customers for the bank. In the bigger sphere, ATMs will be used to reinforce a consistent bank brand image.

With developments in technology, we will also see the ATM's convergence with other electronic services such as web-enabled ATMs and demos of ATMs that can be accessed using mobile phones, providing significantly greater convenience than ever before. Other inroads in technology will also allow greater use of biometrics in ATMs that will provide greater security feature for transactions.

Q: What are your views regarding the concept of cashless ATMs or non-cash types of transactions for the ATM card?

RDM: Although ATMs were initially put up to automate cash withdrawals and balance inquiries, transactions on the ATMs now include funds transfer, payments and even purchases. Payments are processed by debiting the payor cardholder's account in favor of crediting the account of the payee institution such as utility, credit card, pre-need and insurance companies and other establishments such as telco's selling pre-paid value credits, etc.

In fact, ATM cards may now be used beyond the ATMs, as technology and more services enable acceptance of ATM cards and access to ATM accounts via other electronic channels such as point-of-sale (POS) terminals, telephones, mobile phones, and the Internet.

LVT: Non-cash transactions will be a window of opportunity for ATM banking. The menu of services that ATMs can offer can be as wide as what technology will allow it to do. And cross-selling opportunities will be rich. However, cash transactions will continue to constitute the majority of transactions done through ATMs. What will drive the migration or development of cashless transactions via ATMs will be the education of bank customers on the capabilities and services available via these self-service machines.

# *Evolving the use of the MegaLink ATM Card*

IN TODAY'S fast-paced and mobile lifestyle, one seeks for more efficiency and convenience, including the use of one's ATM card. In response to the changing needs, MegaLink services has likewise evolved to make electronic banking even more relevant by making the services available on other delivery channels like the Internet and the mobile phone.

On March 24, MegaLink announces two new services - Internet payments and mobile banking. To make this into reality, MegaLink worked closely with its new connections and member banks on the technical, security and operational functionalities to further provide electronic banking convenience to the cardholders. The services passed through rigorous integration testing, user acceptance testing and certification process by member banks' information technology auditors, before it was approved for production. Each participating bank was likewise given a stamp of approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to ensure that the adequate risk management processes and security policies and procedures are in place.

Secure and Hassle-Free ePayments

MegaLink partnered with The Port (Payment Online, Real-time), an international grade payment gateway. The Port facilitates e-commerce over the Internet, by acting as the financial intermediary between merchants and billers and their customers.

For the MegaLink cardholder, he can now use his MegaLink ATM card to pay utility bills, credit card bills or purchase favorite goods over the Internet via a secure, 24-hour online payment facility. One does not need to enroll nor store his card details. When making a payment, he just selects his bank, enters his ATM card number and personal identification number (PIN).

For the Internet merchant or biller, this opens up a potential client base of 7.3 million MegaLink cardholders.

With the partnership of The Port and MegaLink, the cardholders, merchants and billers are assured of security, confidentiality, risk management, and financial strength.

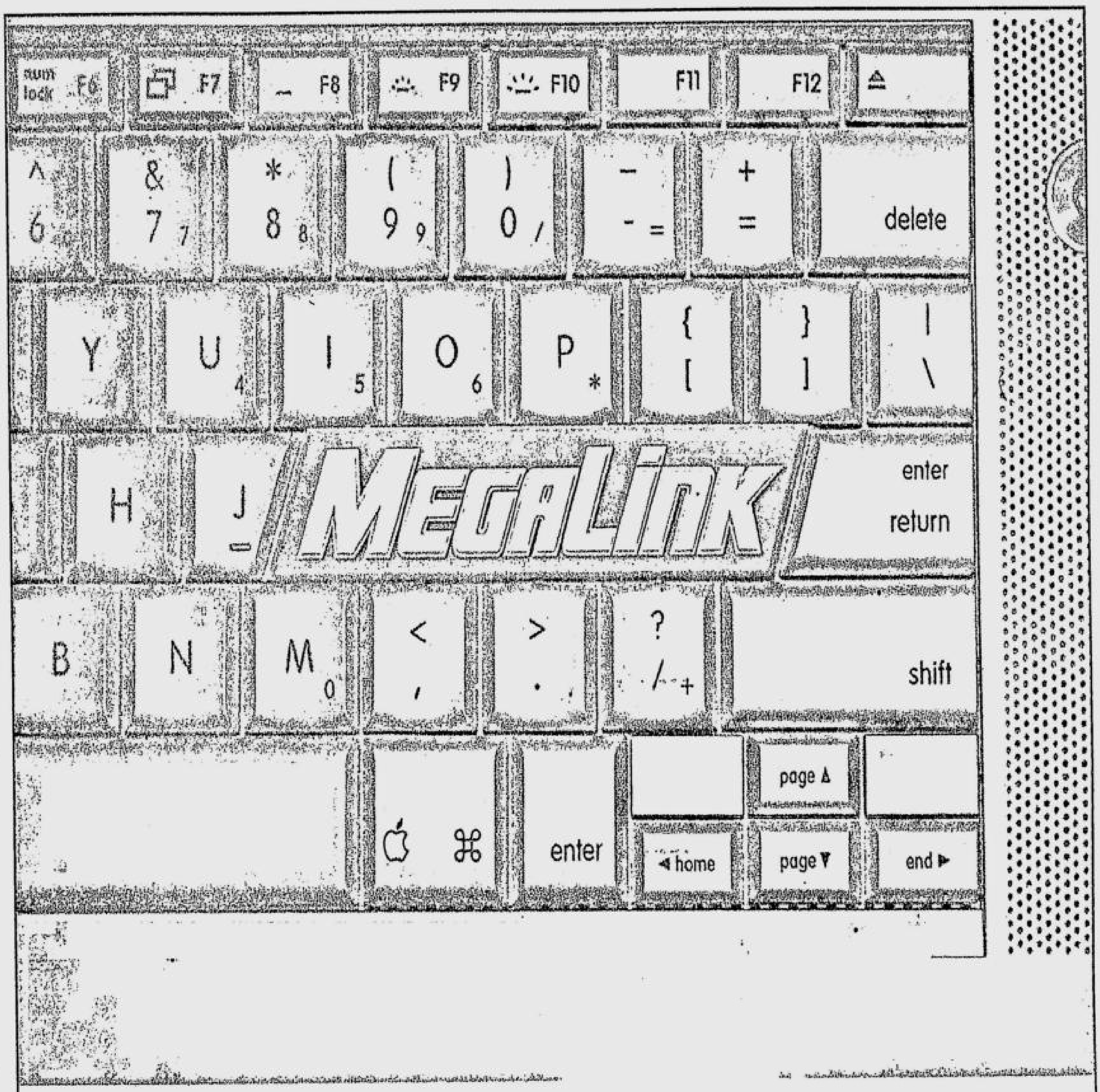
The service is initially available with the following banks: Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, International Exchange Bank, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, and United Coconut Planters Bank. Other banks are scheduled to follow within the year.

Banking at your fingertips, Wherever you may be

Got engine trouble late at night in a dark secluded place - not a good idea to start walking, not a good idea to sit out the night in your car either, and to top it all, you are down to your last P3 load credits. Luckily you've got a MegaLink ATM account and a Smart mobile phone! You make a quick Smart Buddy reload transaction debited from your MegaLink ATM account using your mobile phone, and within less than a minute you're able to call for help and you can be safe and home soon!

MegaLink, together with Smart Communications Inc, proudly introduces mobile phonebanking that elevates electronic banking convenience to greater heights. With the phenomenal acceptance

EVOLVING/L6



MegaLink ~~Credit~~ cards also accepted on the Net.

Introducing 24-hour Internet payment with your MegaLink ATM card. Simply visit www.theportph.com and pay all your utility or credit card bills in cash. Here, you will find direct links to your favorite shopping sites. It's that easy. And because of Thawte technology, it's secure. MegaLink cards are automatically accepted at www.theportph.com and at selected shopping sites.

POWERED BY:
port

# Bank on the spot. A

## Intro

# MegaLink M

enroll your ATM account on-the-spot
load any SMART Buddy or Talk 'N Text celfone on-the-spot

## Now all it takes is your SMART celfone to go to your bank.

We know you lead a busy life. That's why if you can't go to your bank, let the bank come to you.
With MegaLink Mobile Banking, you can go online via text to check your account balance, do fund transfers, and load any SMART Buddy or Talk 'N Text celfone or load funds to your SMART Money.

**MegaLink Mobile Banking powered by SMART. Ready access anytime, anywhere.**
Another amazing first from SMART!

Call 845-7777 or 15177 (toll-free using your SMART celfone), e-mail e-services@smart.com.ph, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of free text allocation), or visit us at any SMART Wireless Center for more information.
See flyers for details.

MEGALINK Available on brands under the SMART network: Infinity, SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile.

Philippine National Bank
Code: PNB

UCPB
Code: UCPB

Development Bank of the Philippines
Code: DBP

Bank of Com
Code: BOC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# nytime. All the time.

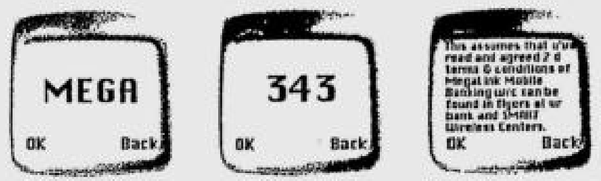
# ucing
# bile Banking
## powered by SMART

load your
SMART Money
on-the-spot
check
account
balance
on-the-spot
transfer
funds
on-the-spot
TAXI
STAND
CAFE
TAXI
TAXI
DUAL AIRCON

## Enroll now using your SMART celfone!

It's the first and only mobile banking service that lets you enroll your ATM account via your celfone. No need to sign up at your bank.

I. Update menu for MegaLink Mobile Banking using a SMART 64k Super SIM.


MEGA
OK Back

343
OK Back

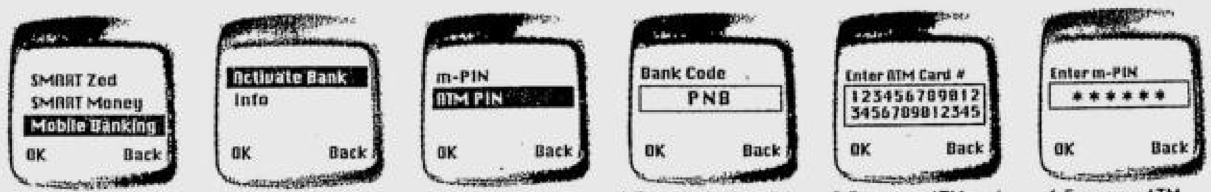
This assumes that u've read and agreed 2 d terms & conditions of MegaLink Mobile Banking w/c can be found in flyers at ur bank and SMART Wireless Centers.
OK Back

1. Key in MEGA.

2. Send to 343.

3. You will receive a text message which states that you have read the Terms & Conditions of MegaLink.

II. Activate your MegaLink ATM Account in Mobile Banking.


SMART Zed
SMART Money
Mobile Banking
OK Back

Activate Bank
Info
OK Back

m-PIN
ATM PIN
OK Back

Bank Code
PNB
OK Back

Enter ATM Card #
1234567890 12
3456789012345
OK Back

Enter m-PIN
* * * * * *
OK Back

1. Go to SMART Menu and select Mobile Banking.

2. Select Activate Bank, press ok.

3. Select ATM PIN to activate bank, press ok.

4. Enter the bank code* of your depository bank, press ok.
** Refer to list of bank codes below*

5. Enter your ATM card number, press OK.
*Note: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 digits*

6. Enter your ATM PIN, press OK.
*Your ATM PIN is considered as your m-PIN in MegaLink Mobile Banking*

**SMART**
*Simply Amazing!*

nered

Keppel Bank
Code: KBP

ASIATRUST
Code: ATB

Insular Savings Bank
Code: ISB

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Frequently asked questions about The PORT...

**1. What is The PORT?**

The Port is a payment gateway wherein you could pay On-line, Real Time, 24 x 7, your utility bills as well as do your shopping in the web.

**2. How will I access The PORT?**

The Port can be accessed in several ways: via hyperlinks at various accredited merchant or biller sites. And soon, cardholders can also access through www.theportph.com, www.megalink.ph, and via hyperlink at participating MegaLink member banks' websites

**3. What are the advantages to MegaLink cardholders?**

MegaLink cardholders can enjoy an alternative way to shop or pay their bills via the Internet providing them queue free, stress free, hassle free, worry free, paperless environment

**4. Who are the participating MegaLink member banks?**

The service is initially available with the following banks: Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, International Exchange Bank, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, UnionBank and United Coconut Planters Bank. Other MegaLink member banks are scheduled to follow within the year.

**5. How Secure is The PORT?**

The Port is backed-up by Thawte Technology, a Verisign Company, the world's leading encryption technologies expert. The Secure Socket Layer (SSL) is the industry standard and among the best software available today for on-line commerce transactions.

**6. How will I know if my transaction is successful?**

A transaction confirmation screen will pop-up after transaction processing. Plus, if there was an e-mail address indicated in the account registration, an e-mail transaction confirmation will be sent out by the PORT administrator within a few seconds after the transaction.

**6. Who do I call in case of inquiries or problems?**

MegaLink cardholders may call the following Customer Hotline Numbers at: 811-3649, 811-3685 or 841-86

### About MegaLink's Mobile Banking Services

**1. What is the difference of Megalink Mobile Banking with the Mobile Banking service of existing bank partners?**

Megalink Mobile Banking is the first mobile banking service that allows over-the-air enrollment of an ATM account. There is no need to go to the branch-of-account to fill-up a form. The ATM cardholder only needs to follow 3 simple steps:

a) Initialize the Mobile Banking Menu

b) Update the Mobile Banking Menu

c) Activate the ATM account in the Smart Celfone

Please refer to your user guides available at Smart Wireless Centers and your bank branch.

**2. Who can enroll in Megalink Mobile Banking?**

All ATM cardholders of any of the participating banks can enroll in the service. The customer can have either a current/checking or savings account, provided that he/she has an ATM card.

**3. What are the requirements to enroll in Mobile Banking?**

The user must have a:

a) GSM 900/1800 handset STK Compatible (Dual Band handset) - must be able to display the Smart Menu (same level as messages, phonebook, etc.)

b) Smart Gold, Addict Mobile, Smart Infinity or Smart Buddy SIM (Smart 64K 1 & 2; Smart ZED Plus v. 2.02) - check the back of the SIM to validate the version

4. Do I need to enter my account number when activating the mobile banking service?

No. You don't need to enter your account number when activating the service. Only the ATM Card Number (written on the face of the ATM card) should be entered.

**5. What PIN will be used in Megalink Mobile Banking?**

The ATM PIN (the PIN used when withdrawing at the ATM) will be used in all Megalink Mobile Banking transactions. Hence, when activating an account, the customer must select the ATM PIN.

However, when doing other Megalink Mobile Banking transactions, the celfone will always display M-PIN, but the user must still input his ATM PIN every time. Hence, for Megalink Mobile Banking the M-PIN = ATM PIN.

**6. How many ATM card accounts can I activate on my Smart Celfone?**

You display up to 3 ATM Card account on the Smart Celfone. Each ATM Card can have a maximum of 2 bank accounts (primary savings and primary current) linked to it.

To give way to a 4th ATM Card account, the user must first deactivate (via Suspend Bank) any of the 3 active ATM card accounts. The user can simply, reactivate (via Activate Bank)

PORT/L7

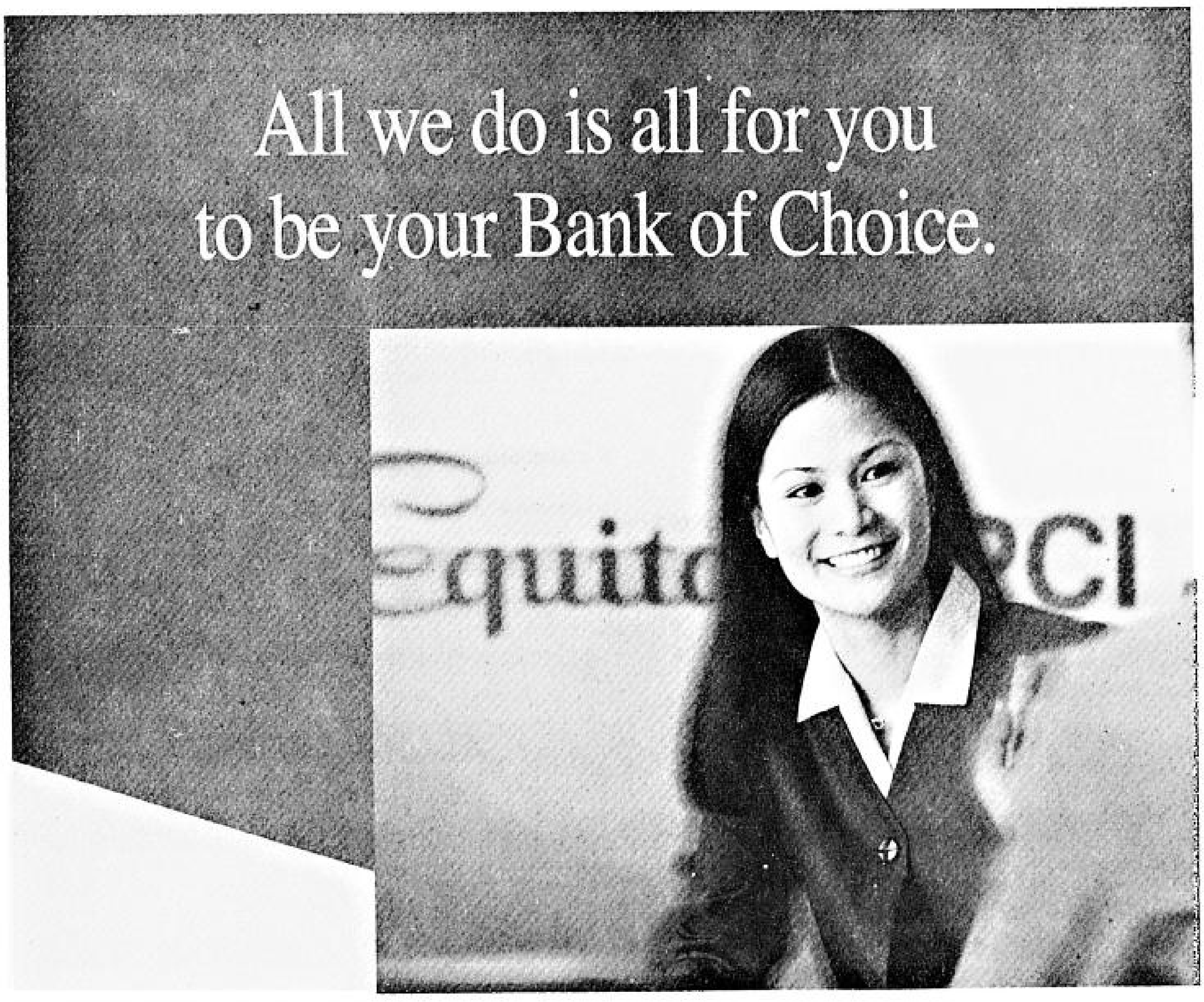
# Megalink Member Banks

**MegaLink Member Banks**

- **Asiatrust Bank**
- **Bank of Commerce**
- **Development Bank of the Philippines**
- **Equitable PCI Bank**
- **Equitable PCI Savings Bank**
- **GSIS Family Bank**
- **Insular Savings Bank**
- **International Exchange Bank**
- **Keppel Bank Philippines, Inc.**
- **LBC Bank**
- **Maybank Philippines, Inc.**
- **One Network Bank**
- **Pacific Ace Savings Bank**
- **Philam Savings Bank**
- **Philippine National Bank**
- **Philippine Veterans Bank**
- **Premiere Development Bank**
- **Prudential Bankl**
- **Queen City Development Bank**
- **Robinsons Savings Bank**
- **Union Bank of the Philippines**
- **United Coconut Planters Bank**

## Debit Bills Payment Institutions (Available on the ATMs and PhoneLink)

- AIG Card
- AZ Communications
- Bantay Bata 163
- Bayantel-ICC
- Beeper 150
- CAP Education
- CAP Health & Pension
- Citibank
- CMG Health & Pension
- Cocolife
- Davao Lights
- Digitel
- Easycall
- Equitable Mastercard
- Equitable Visa Card
- Extelcom
- Globe
- Homecorp
- Infocom
- Insular Life
- Innove Communications
- Liberty
- Mobiline
- National Life
- Nutrition For Life
- Pacific Internet
- PET Plans
- Philam Care
- Philam Life
- Philonline
- Platinum Plans
- PLDT
- Pocketbell
- PRU LIFE UK
- Prudential Education
- Prudential Life
- Prudential Pension
- PT & T
- SICC MC/DC
- Sky Cable
- Sky Internet
- Smart Communications
- Sun Life
- Union Bank VISA
- Weblink
- Webscape (i-next)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Your Bank of Choice

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and 1-800-188-84-911 (Provincial)
or visit www.equitablepcib.com

## *Evolving the Use of the MegaLink ATM Card*

From page L3

and affordability of cell phones in the Philippines, also known as the text capital of the world, mobile banking pushes the definition of anytime anywhere banking directly into people's hands wherever they may be.

Combining Smart's advanced mobile technology and 14 million subscribers, with MegaLink's reliable electronic banking network of 22 member banks and 7.3 million ATM cardholders, the partnership synergistically taps and optimizes the potential of both networks - improving lives with the fusion of mobile and banking services. Security of your transactions, personal mobile and account data, and mobile / personal identification numbers are assured in full compliance to global security standards.

MegaLink and Smart customers can expect to do balance inquiries and fund transfers across their ATM accounts, Smart Buddy reload, Smart Money top-up and soon, bills payment with MegaLink's biller institutions.

To start using the service, you do not need to go out of your way to visit an office and sign forms. Simply activate your ATM card by simply going through the activate bank option under mobile banking in the Smart Menu of your Smart mobile phone.

The service is initially available with the following banks: Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, and United Coconut Planters Bank. Other banks are scheduled to follow within the year. You may inquire at Smart hotline 8457777 for more information. Your Smart Guide to MegaLink Mobile Banking handy kits are available at your banks and at Smart Wireless Centers.

> Each participating bank was likewise given a stamp of approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to ensure that the adequate risk management processes and security policies and procedures are in place

# Frequently asked questions about The PORT…

From page L6

any suspended/deactivated account.

**7. What does Fund Transfer mean?**

The Fund Transfer function is limited to intra-ATM card account. This means it is only available to ATM cards with multiple accounts (with primary savings and primary current) linked to it.

The said function will not allow inter-ATM card account transfer at the moment.

**8. Can I change the ATM PIN via the Smart Celfone?**

No. You can't change the ATM PIN using the Smart Celfone. However, when the customer changes his ATM PIN in the ATM or at his branch-of-account, the Mobile Banking system will automatically recognize the new PIN. There is no need to re-enroll or reactivate the account.

**9. Who can use the Reload Buddy menu? Who can be recipients of the Reload Buddy menu?**

Any Smart Mobile Banking user, whether postpaid or prepaid, can use the Reload Buddy function since a user can type any Smart Prepaid number (Smart Buddy or Talk 'n Text) as the recipient of the load.

**10. What denominations are available in the Reload Buddy function?**

Only the regular airtime denominations (300, 500, 1000) are available in Mobile Banking.

**11. What are the applicable rates when using the mobile banking service? .**

a) Initializing the Mobile Banking Menu - Free
b) Updating the Mobile Banking Menu - Free
c) Activate Bank (Activation of an account) - P 3.00
d) Suspend Bank (Deactivation of an account) - P3.00
e) Fund Transfer - P3.00
f) Balance Inquiry - P3.00
g) Reload Buddy - P1.00
h) Reload Money - P2.50
i) Call Us - P1.50 plus airtime consumed

**12. Are the SMS fees for mobile banking charged within the monthly service fee (for postpaid) or free text allocation (for postpaid and prepaid)?**

For postpaid subscribers, all mobile banking transactions, except Reload Buddy, are charged above the monthly service fee.

For prepaid subscribers, all mobile banking transactions, except Reload Buddy, are charged on the available airtime.

Reload Buddy transactions can be charged against the free text allocation (both prepaid and postpaid), if still available. Otherwise, its charged at P1.00/txn.

**13. If the customer has 0 airtime but still has free text allocation, will a Reload Buddy transaction still push through?**

No. The Reload Buddy transaction will not push through. The customer must have at least P1.00 in his airtime to be able to use/access his free text allocation.

**14. What happens if the subscriber reloads to an incorrect Buddy/Talk 'n Text or Smart Money number?**

If the Buddy/Talk n' Text or Smart Money card numbers are valid, the transaction will push through. If the number is invalid, an error response will be received.

The customer must report the incorrect transaction to the Smart Money Hotline for reversal. However, if the value has already been fully or partially used, the whole amount can no longer be reversed.

**15. Why is there no Smart Money Reload function in the Mobile Banking menu?**

The Reload Money function can be found under the Smart Money Menu. ATM Card accounts enrolled under Megalink Mobile Banking can be the sources of funds for any Smart Money card linked to the same Smart Celfone.

**16. What are the participating MegaLink member banks in this service?**

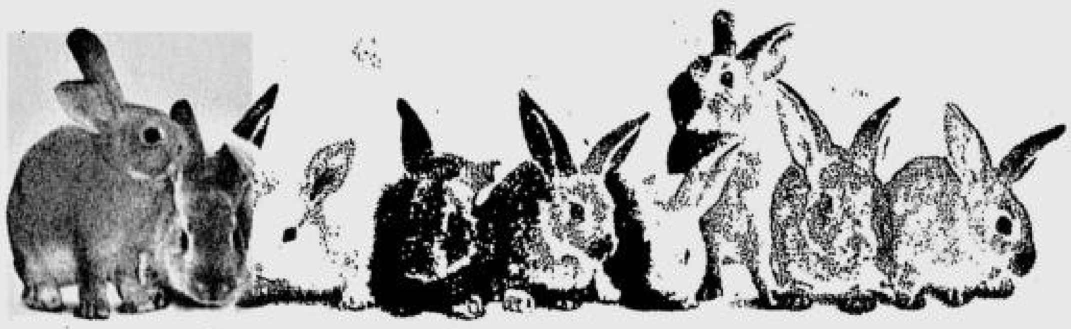
Asiatrust Bank, Bank of Commerce, Development Bank of the Philippines, Insular Savings Bank, Keppel Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, and United Coconut Planters Bank. Other banks are scheduled to follow within the year.

The other MegaLink member banks which have direct connections with Smart and already offer the service are: Equitable PCI Bank, International Exchange Bank, UnionBank and Premiere Development Bank.

**17. Who do I call for inquiries or problems?**

You may inquire at Smart hotline 845-7777 for more information.

**Watch your money multiply!**



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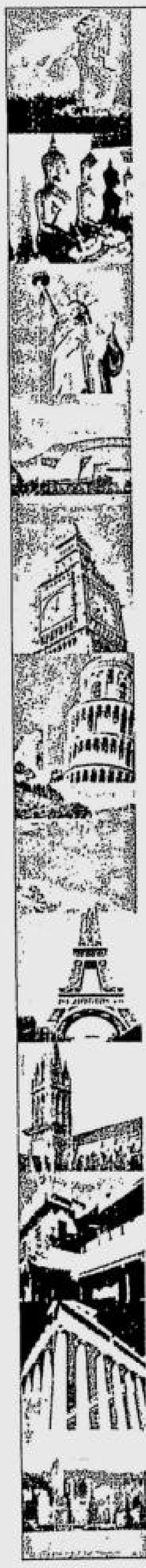

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Thursday 12:00 noon

Overseas jobs on page M6

Part 1

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### PROGRAM HEAD

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Fax No. (02) 373-3901 loc. 8262

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**• Social Studies / World History**
**• Mandarin/Chinese • Science (Physics,** (Physics, Biology) **• Math** (Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, Calculus)

**• MIS Consultant**

- Has MS and PhD in any field of IT/Computer

**• SCHOOL NURSE**
**• ACCOUNTING STAFF**

**• COLLEGE LECTURERS**

For the following areas
**• Social Sciences • Mathematics**
**• Science (Physics,** Chemistry, Biology) **• Information Technology**
**• Accounting/Finance • English**
**• Accounting/Finance • English**
**• Mass Communication • Filipino**
**• Human Resources • Humanities**
**• Physical Education**

REQUIREMENTS:
- Preferably with the appropriate MA
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

**• EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO**

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to the Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

**EVALUATION SCHEDULE: March 22, 23 and 24, 2004, 1:00 PM and March 27, 2004, 8:00 AM**

*The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.*

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# WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR MAJOR CLIENTS

**CREDIT and COLLECTION ASSISTANTS** – male or female, single, 21-26 yrs. old. College graduate of 4 year business course.

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS ASSISTANTS** – male or female, single, 21-26 yrs. old. College grad (Mass Comm/any Business Mgmt course), computer literate.

**HR/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANTS** – male or female, single, 21-26 yrs. old, grad of AB/BS Psychology/ Business Mgmt course), computer literate.

**GRAPHIC ARTISTS** – male or female, single, 21-26 yrs old, graduate of Computer Science/Advertising. Responsible for the creation of Company and client's creative materials.

**SENIOR PROGRAMMERS** – male or female, 24-35 yrs old, grad of BS Computer Science or any business course. With at least 2 yr. work experience in the full life cycle of system development projects or in client/server application development. Ideally, knowledgeable of object oriented modeling, customer relationship mgmt solutions & data warehousing. Proficient in the use of MS Access 97/2000, Visual Fox/Pro, MS SQL Server 2003, Oracle RDBMS, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports &/or any web development tools (Java, NTML, XML).

**MARKETING ASSISTANTS** – male or female, 21-26 yrs. old, grad of any 4 yr course preferably BS Commerce major in Marketing, computer literate.

**LINEMEN** – male, 21-26 yrs old, ECE, EE or Tel Tech grad. Preferably with experience in cable installation but not necessary, with strong physique & must have a professional driver's license for a 4-wheel vehicle.

**PACKERS** – male, not more than 35 yrs old, at least high school level.

**MOTORIZED COLLECTORS/MESSENGERS** – male, not more than 35 yrs. old, high school grad. owns a motorcycle, w/ professional driver's license

**MERCHANDIZERS** – male or female, 18-26 yrs. old, high school grad.

Applicants may send their comprehensive Resumé/Bio-Data by fax or e-mail or personally apply with latest 2x2 picture at:

**FAST BREAK STAFF, INC.**
121 Unit C, Seasonaire Building
P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong City
Tel#: 534-2901; Telefax#: 747-2671; Mobile#0917-3876628;
e-mail add: fastbreak@edsamail.com.ph (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

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Oxford Suites MAKATI

Oxford Suites Makati is the leading 4-star hotel in the Makati Business District. We offer excellent value for money, creative promotion with attractive prices, strategic location and a professional team that has gained excellent reputation in the market.

We are looking for high caliber candidates
to join our professional team as

**SALES MANAGER**
**FRONT OFFICE MANAGER**

The successful candidate profile is:
- College graduate with a minimum hotel experience of 3 years.
- Self-motivated, energetic and have a passion for innovation.
- Strong customer service orientation.
- Strong analytical, leadership & communication skills.
- Responsive to change, with speed and accuracy.
- Results-oriented.

**Sales Manager**
Reporting to the Hotel Manager, the candidate will be accountable for the performance of the sales team and explore opportunities for business development. You will lead a professional team in providing excellent service to our customers to meet company performance targets and drive for sales and profitability. You will lead in the formulation of the sales plan and have to ensure the effective implementation and execution of sales and marketing activities. As a key member of the Management team, you are required to motivate and develop the sales team in support of business growth.

**Front Office Manager**
Reporting to the Hotel Manager, the candidate will be accountable for the performance of the front office team as well as lead coordination of all back area operations. You will cultivate and manage a work culture based on best guest customer service practices. As a key member of the Management team, you are required to motivate and develop the front office staff in support of business growth.

Please send your resume quoting reference SM-032004 for Sales Manager and FOM-032004 for Front Office Manager to:
The Hotel Manager
Oxford Suites Makati Hotel
Durban cor P. Burgos Sts
Makati City 1200
Ph 899 7888
Fx 899 6691
Email veronica_dg@oxfordsuitesmakati.com

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence and will only be used for recruitment related purpose. Applicants not hearing from us within 2 weeks may consider their application filed for future reference.

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**A leading company in the aggregates industry is urgently in need of topnotch individuals to fill up its manpower requirements:**

## COMPUTER PROGAMMER

Male, 21 to 35 years old, graduate of any computer programming course, knowledgeable in VB6, ACCESS, SQL programs, with at least one (1) year experience.

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Female, 21 to 25 years old, graduate of any four-year degree course preferably Marketing from a reputable university, with high intellectual faculty, will be responsible for providing assistance to the Senior Account Executive in all Aggregates Marketing activities, perform market studies and analysis, and perform other economic / marketing-related activities.

**We are also inviting**
**NEWLY LICENSED ENGINEERS**
**to fill up the position of**

## CADET ENGINEER

Male or Female, 21 to 25 years old, Graduate of Civil, Mechanical, Management or Industrial Engineering Course

**Please apply in person together with your comprehensive resumé, TOR, diploma, certificate of employment and 1 x 1 photo at:**

**DON MARIANO SANTOS AVENUE,**
**BO. SAN ISIDRO, ANGONO, RIZAL**
**Tel. Nos. 651-3211 to 15 local 242**

Or you may send your application thru e-mail address: mebismar@cac.com.ph

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An MNC specialising in design, fabrication and installation of aluminium curtainwall systems for commercial buildings invites suitably qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- Design Manager
- Assistant Design Manager
- Designers

*Requirements:*
- Degree in Architecture, Engineering or equivalent
- Applicants must have at least 8 years' appropriate experience in similar capacities in the aluminium facade industry

Interested candidates, please apply with full resume, expected salary, contact number(s) to:

The Human Resource Manager
MC P.O. Box 2019
Makati City 1260
Email: dis499637@hotmail.com

*(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)*

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***ARROW FREIGHT CORPORATION***

is in need of

## MARKETING OFFICERS

*(Preferably Engineering or Marketing Graduate)*

## ESTIMATOR

*(Preferably Engineering Graduate)*

- Male or Female
- Single
- With pleasing personality
- Computer literate
- Excellent in oral and written communication
- Preferably a resident of Quezon City
- Familiar in Metro Manila
- Related working experience is an advantage but not required.

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé at:

E-mail address : fvrazon@netgazer.com.ph
Mailing address : #368 F. San Diego Street,
Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City
1440

or call the Office Administrative Department at Tel. No. (02) 2922750.

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BURGER KING

**AMERICA'S FAVORITE BURGER CHAIN IS NOW HIRING!**

*If you want better opportunities, faster career growth and are hot to get world-class training, be part of our growing network.*

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES:
*(For Metro Manila Assignments)*
- Male or Female, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business-related course
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary
- Previous experience in the fast food industry would be an advantage

ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGERS:
*(For Marilao, Bulacan & Dasmariñas, Cavite Assignments)*
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business related course
- Minimum of 1½ years of experience in the fast food industry, managerial level
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary

RESTAURANT GENERAL MANAGERS:
*(For Marilao, Bulacan & Dasmariñas, Cavite Assignments)*
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business related course
- Minimum of 3 years experience in the fast food industry, managerial level, Unit/Store Manger preferred.
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary

We offer a package of salary and benefits competitive to the industry. We also offer prospects of long term career where individuals can aim for the highest possible levels.

Qualified candidates may bring their
Resume with 2x2 photo and transcript of records

2/F Topy Bldg. #3 Economia St. Bagumbayan (Libis) QC
(EEI Compound at the back of Honda Cars Libis)

or email them at hrd_bk@philking.com.ph

WE WILL ONLY REPLY TO QUALIFIED CANDIDATES.

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**COME AND JOIN US!!!**
**As we elevate your career to the top!**

We are a joint venture with **Mitsubishi** of Japan and an ISO-9001 certified company. We have vacancies for:

## *SALES ENGINEER/S (Cebu/Manila Based)*

*They will be responsible in handling sales inquiries; preparing cost estimates, bid specifications and contracts; sourcing out clients/customers and coordinating with other trade contractors. They must be able to market and sell Mitsubishi elevators and escalators or air-conditioning units.*

*The candidate must be between 20 to 27 years old and a graduate of any business or engineering related courses from a reputable school. Computer literate (MS Office and preferably AutoCAD) and holder of a valid driver's license. The ideal applicant must be aggressive, determined and good in oral and written communications. Experience in sales of the said equipment is not required but an advantage.*

## *SECRETARY*

*She will be responsible in preparing quotations; filing the documents; answering telephone calls; composing business correspondence and perform other secretarial functions.*

*The candidate must be a graduate of any four (4) year business or secretarial course. She must be computer literate, not more than 25 years old, with pleasing personality and good in oral and written communications.*

## *RECEPTIONIST*

*The candidate must be female and graduate of any 4-year business course. She must be computer literate, conversant in English and possesses a pleasing personality. It would be an advantage if the candidate has at least (1) year experience in the operation of mini PABX system.*

*Interested applicants should apply personally or through e-mail not later than March 31, 2004 with resume, xerox copy of transcript of records and 2x2 picture at:*

**INTERNATIONAL ELEVATOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.**
**Km. 23 West Service Road South Superhighway, Cupang, Muntinlupa City**
**(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)**
**and look for Myles Estupin**
**Tel. # 8423161-64 / 8070420**
**Fax # 8423160 / 8093706**
**E-mail: raocampo@fastmail.i-next.net**

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**Personnel Requirements**

We are a young, progressive and dynamic marketing communications and promotions company servicing clients in the food, fashion, cosmetic, manufacturing and leisure industries. We are looking for mature and dynamic individuals who are creative self-starters and do not cringe at hard work and challenges. The ideal candidate is a team player who can multi-task and bring fresh and original ideas to the table. All positions are for full time employment.

Applicants can expect an above-average compensation package, training and generous, "non-traditional" perks.

**Code W1: Writers**
Highly creative marketing, pr or advertising oriented individuals who write AND WANT TO PERFECT THEIR CRAFT. Must be able to conceptualize and write lifestyle and business type articles with little or no supervision.

**Code W2: Market Researchers**
Experienced with field work. Excellent communication skills in both English and Filipino.

**Code W3: Marketing Communications Associates**
Must like to organize things. Superior communications and people skills. Thorough and key attention to details necessary. Fresh graduates are welcome but must show leadership potential.

**Code W4: Group Secretary/Executive Assistant**
Proficient in Word, Excel and PPT, can multi-task and backstop. With excellent organizing and filing skills. Excellent people skills. At least 1 year in the same position.

Please indicate desired position, salary history and minimum desired compensation. Three verifiable character references are a must. Please mail applications to MCPO 4678 Makati City.

## Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team to deliver superior banking services:

### LOANS DOCUMENTATION OFFICER

- Successful candidate will be responsible for administration of all document requirements, which will include the preparation of and processing of collateral documents, reviewing of and evaluation of compliance by borrowers to conditions set by approving authorities and adherence to existing credit policies and procedures.
- The candidate should have at least four(4) years of experience in documentation and loans processing.
- Graduate of any four (4) year college course, with working knowledge of accounting principles. Computer literate.

### ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Successful hires will be responsible in account solicitation and selling of retail consumer finance products.
- Ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least two (2) years of experience preferably selling consumer related products.
- Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate.

### I.T. NETWORK HEAD

- Successful candidate will handle the operations and support functions in the areas of voice and data communications, PABX and network management.
- The candidate must have full knowledge of Router, PABX systems configuration. Proficient in LAN/WAN.
- Preferred candidates are graduates of Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electronics and Communications Engineering or relevant courses. Good oral and written communication skills. Supervisory and organizational skills. Highly computer literate and up to date on new telecom trends.

### MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- Qualified candidates will provide administrative and clerical support to the Account Officers. He/she will assist in servicing and maintenance of accounts.
- Must be a graduate of a four (4) year course, preferably business.
- Excellent customer service orientation. Good written/verbal communication skills. Computer literate.

Qualified candidates are invited to personally apply from Monday to Friday or mail/e-mail comprehensive resume and 2x2 photo to:

**Asia United Bank**
www. asiaunited.com.ph.
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Corporate Center
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph

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MosCom

**Mosaic Communications, Inc.**

Be part of the MosCom Team. Now Hiring:

## CORPORATE ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, graduate of CS, CoE, ECE or any IT-related course from a reputable school
- At least 2 years of sales experience in IT or telecommunications company
- Presentable, dynamic, resourceful, and highly organized
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in Internet and basic PC software applications
- Willing to do field work and client calls

Interested applicants may send in their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:
Suite 707 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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MSA
ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE

*invites qualified individuals to join its professional group*

## TEACHERS

Math ♦ English ♦ Science

## Client Care Specialist

305 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Q. C.
Tel 435-6062 ♦ 435-6063 ♦ 929-9145

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BusinessTrends
A KELLY SERVICES COMPANY

We are a Global Staffing Company with over 2,300 offices in 30 countries worldwide servicing 80 percent of the Fortune Top 500 Companies. We are looking for highly qualified executives to fill in the following position for our prestigious list of clients.

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR LEASING

We are looking for someone who is a licensed Real Estate Broker with related experience for at least three (3) years. The person must be knowledgeable in preparation of contracts and able to read floor plans. Sales and Marketing functions are also critical to the position. The person must also possess the ability to communicate and negotiate with expatriate clients.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO:**
1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY TEL: (632) 631-3109
E-MAIL: [illegible] WEBSITE: www.kellyservices.com.sg

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### SALES EXECUTIVES

- ■ Male/Female not more than 40 years old graduate of any 4-year course. Experience in one of the ff. industry sector would be an advantage: Ind'l Institutional Industry, Food Industry, Chemical Manufacturer. Can provide technical support/assistance to customers

### GRAPHICS/TEXTILE PRINTING SALES REP.

- ■ Not more than 40 years of age with good moral character. Knowledge in screen making, preparation of colors, stretching exposing stencil development are an advantage. Preferably with background in handling table/machine printers or in graphics design. With or without sales experience

### TECHNICAL STAFF

- ■ B.S. ChE or BS Chem or Masteral graduate. Good in oral & written reports. Computer Literate, Non smokers. Working experience in operation related to textile, paper, printing and leather is an advantage. Preferably residing in Metro Manila

*Applicants can speak fluent Chinese Languages is an advantage and may send thru: Box No. O.C. 2004 05 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer G/F St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd. cor Oxford St., Cubao Quezon City*

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### Immigrate to Canada

THRU THE QUICKEST & EASIEST WAY!!!
APPLY AS INVESTOR IMMIGRANT & confer
w/ a Canadian Representative on April 13 to
find out your FINANCING OPTIONS!!!
You can also apply as SKILLED WORKER
for as low as US$1000, the Canadian gov't
lowered its pass mark to 67 points
The STANDARD GROUP has offices in
Vancouver, Los Angeles, Boston and Manila.
Standard Immigration Services Inc. 9 Albany St.,
Northeast Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel.: 7213738; Cel # 9178171827; 9174814186
Email standardphilippines@yahoo.com

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## Philippine Airlines

**IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR
DYNAMIC, TALENTED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED PEOPLE
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS**

### FLIGHT ATTENDANT

- ✈ 18-27 years old
- ✈ Filipino citizen
- ✈ Females must be single; 5'3" in height
  Males, preferably single; 5'6" in height
- ✈ With good visual impact and pleasing personality
- ✈ Must have perfect vision (contact lenses not allowed)
- ✈ Must have excellent command of English and Filipino languages
- ✈ Must have finished at least 2 years in college

### EXPERIENCED JAVA PROGRAMMER

- ✈ College graduate, preferably in any of the following courses: Computer Science, BS Math, BS Statistics, or Computer Engineering
- ✈ With at least 2 years work experience as JAVA Programmer
- ✈ Must be knowledgeable in J2SE/J2EE and SQL
- ✈ Must possess good oral and written communication skills

### Info Systems Security Operations Analyst

- ✈ Graduate of any of the following courses: Computer Science, BS Math, BS Statistics, or Computer Engineering
- ✈ With at least 1 year work experience as I/S Security Admin or Systems Admin or Network Admin
- ✈ Must have experience in LINUX, UNIX, OPEN BSD, MS WINDOWS
- ✈ With good scholastic records

### Security Field / Performance Agent

- ✈ College graduate with at least 2 years work experience in industrial security / investigative work / law enforcement / or with police / military background
  OR,
  second year college with at least 5 years experience in industrial security/ investigative work / law enforcement / or with police / military background
- ✈ With good analytical skills
- ✈ Computer literate
- ✈ With good oral & written communication skills

### Inflight Training & Development Specialist

- ✈ Must have at least 5 years experience as Flight Attendant
- ✈ College graduate
- ✈ With strong interest in teaching
- ✈ Preferably with presentation skills
- ✈ With good oral and written communication skills
- ✈ Willing to assume multi-tasks including flight and ground duties

### Customer Relations Assistant (Vietnamese/Japanese Interpreter)

- ✈ Must be fluent in oral and written Japanese or Vietnamese
- ✈ Must have a good command of the English language
- ✈ With good visual impact and pleasing personality
- ✈ College graduate
- ✈ Preferably not be more than 30 years old

**Please send your resumé, 2x2 photo & transcript of records by mail to:**

**E&P ADS-2004-001
Employment & Placement Division
PHILIPPINE AIRLINES
PAL Gate 1, Andrews Avenue, Pasay City
or by e-mail to: placement@pal.com.ph**

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## Eastwood City JOBFair 2004

## Where Career Opportunities are Endless.

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March 31 to
April 3, 2004
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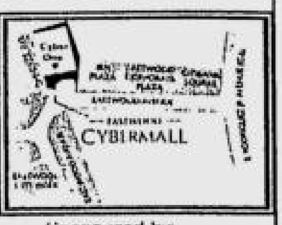
Beside IBM Plaza



For inquiries call:
6876771 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

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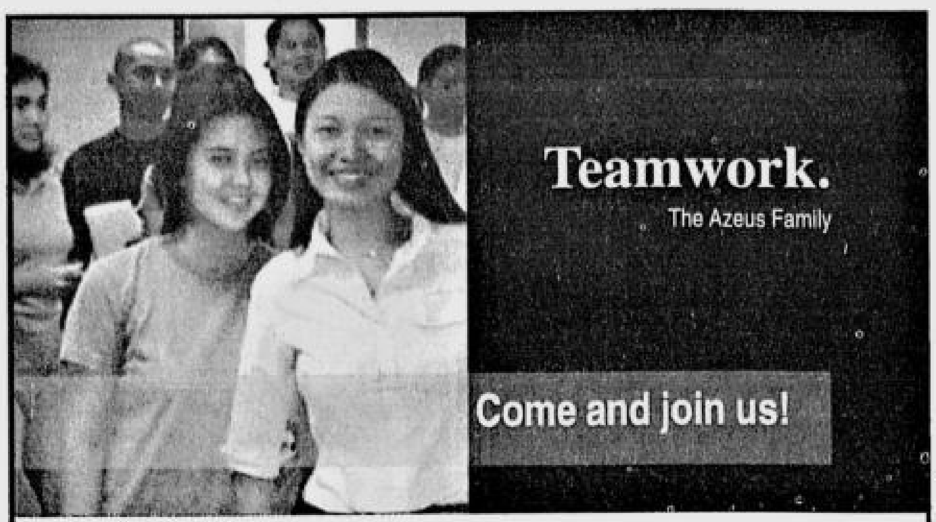

## Software Developer

- Degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Excellent programming and problem solving skills
- Has a strong desire to learn and use new technology

## Software Test Engineer

- Degree in any course
- Willing to pursue a career in IT
- Critical thinker and has keen attention to details

**Azeus Systems Philippines, Inc.**
An SEI-CMM / CMMI Level 5 Company
Suite 2802-B West Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Centre,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Email: careers-ph@azeus.com; Tel: 637-5960, 637-5962; Fax: 637-5963

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## When you have a vision... prepare to be seen.

### FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

- Female
- Graduate of Accountancy, CPA, MBA an advantage
- With extensive comptrollership, treasury and financial planning experience in retail operation.
- Results-oriented, analytical and hardworking
- With strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills
- Proficient in MS Excel and other Accounting System.

### EXTERNAL MERCHANDISING MANAGER

- Female, not over 40 years old
- Graduate of Clothing Technology or any business course
- With at least 2 years exposure in OTB/budgeting, ordering, stock analysis and control in garments or fashion retail business
- Willing to do regular store visits
- Has good analytical and communication skills; organized and industrious
- Proficient in MS World or Excel

### ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS

- Female, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Accounting, CPA an advantage
- Minimum of 1 year supervisory level preferably in fashion retail or trading business, experienced in bank reconciliation, cash disbursement, billing, and payroll accounting
- Proficient in MS Excel; preferably with exposure in Accounting System software

### SALES OPERATIONS HEADS
### AREA MANAGERS (for pooling)

- Female, not over 40 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- With at least 2 years managerial background in selling, and operations management in retail set-up, direct selling or consumer marketing business
- With strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills
- Results-oriented, analytical and dynamic

### STORE MANAGERS
### STORE/KIOSK SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- With at least 1 year experience in similar capacity in fashion retail operations, direct selling or consumer marketing
- With proven track record in selling or attaining quota
- With pleasing personality, articulate and with excellent leadership skills

### GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Male/Female, 20 years old and above
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT course
- Proficient in Corel 10, Photoshop, Trouble shooting, Adobe, Illustrator, Lay-outing & Designing
- Experience in garments/fashion retail business an advantage

Other Vacancies...

- HR ASSOCIATE
- ACCOUNTING STAFF
- DATA ENCODER
- SALES CLERKS
- STOCKMAN
- CASHIERS

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**Human Resources Department**
5 Firefly St., Valle Verde 6-A, Pasig City
(Mondays thru Fridays, 9-3 p.m. only)

All qualified applicants are requested to apply in person. Please bring resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the address stated above

For further inquiries, you may get in touch with either Jacqui Asilo & Rica Reyes at 637-5547

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**tele CONNECT inc**

Is a growing & rapidly expanding call center serving US Fortune 1000 corporations. We are determined to provide superior value to our customers by integrating the best people, processes, and technology.

**If you are Sales- driven, Aggressive, Creative, Responsible, Results- oriented and possess the following qualifications for each respective positions**

### SALES ASSOCIATES (SA)

- Sales-driven, dynamic, self-motivated results- oriented and fast-learner
- Preferably w/ sales/telemarketing/call center experience
- Willing to work in different shifts

### TRAINING OFFICER (TO)

- With experience in developing and executing training modules
- Excellent English communication presentation and interpersonal skills
- With sales/telemarketing experience
- Call Center experience (advantage)

### QUALITY ASSUARANCE SPECIALISTS (QAS)

- Strong listening and analytical skills
- Preferably w/ 6 months QA experience
- Exceptional monitoring and feedback skills
- Preferably w/ sales experience and willing to work long hours

### TEAM LEADER (TL)

- Strong selling skills
- Must have at least 6 months of TL experience in a Call Center
- Excellent coaching, motivational & leadership skills
- Challenge-seeker, self-motivated & results- oriented

**Show us what you've got and we'll give you the chance to build your CAREER with US. Call 910-6798 or 910-5170 for details. Kindly specify position code and reference code ( 05-2004) . Previous applicants need not apply.**

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**IF YOU ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED, COMPETENT ORGANIZED & LOOKING FOR A HIGH PAYING STABLE JOB WITH POTENTIAL PROMOTION. WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR GROWING FAST FOOD COMPANY.**

JOB OPENINGS:

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

- ✓ Female, college graduate preferably related to food

### DRIVER

- ✓ Male, with experience in delivery

### COMPANY TECHNICIAN

- ✓ Male, all-around maintenance
- ✓ Knowledge in electrical, plumbing
- ✓ Driving skill is an advantage

### HR ASSISTANT/TRAINER

- ✓ Female, college graduate
- ✓ With experience in HR field

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK LONG & FLEXIBLE HOURS. MUST BE WILLING TO UNDERGO TRAINING. EXPERIENCE IN YOUR FIELD IS AN ADVANTAGE.
Please apply in person at 158 P. Sevilla St. between 6th & 7th Aves., Grace Park, Caloocan City. Bring RESUMÉ w/ 2x2 colored photo

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## DIVISION ACCOUNTANT

J.T. Zhang is on the move.
Join and give your career a **jump start!**

We are seeking accountants that will take over the accounting department that needs and energizing force and a new direction. A CPA graduate would be great, but not as important as a track record of building top notch teams with a desire to succeed. A progressive compensation package will grow as you do. **Send in your resumé if you have a few years in your industry, solid academics and a track record of building awesome theme.**

**J.T. Zhang & Co. Inc. Tel. 7126261**
**561 Mayon St. S.M.H. Quezon City**

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## Picture yourself ... in their shoes
## or better yet ... in their headsets

Our **Customer Service Representatives** come from different schools in Metro Manila and the provinces. They have had different past jobs from various industries. Some were teachers, salesmen, med reps, or CSRs from other call centers. Some are fresh grads, housewives, or people going back to the workforce after years of pursuing other personal interests. They have different ages (anywhere from 20 to secret), different college degrees, different hobbies, talents, past lives, etc. You can say we celebrate diversity. What they do have in common are the following:

- ☐ they love talking on the phone for hours on end (we mean this literally)
- ☐ they like interacting with new people from different countries
- ☐ they love exploring new opportunities and learning new things
- ☐ they're night people (they love to work at night and sleep during the day).
- ☐ they're comfortable conversing with foreigners (Americans, Hispanics, Europeans, Asians) using American English
- ☐ they're good with basic math -- addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- ☐ they have a passion for helping other people

If you have these qualities, have a college degree, are computer proficient, and have strong customer service skills -- chances are, you can become one of our good **Customer Service Representatives (Inbound/Outbound).** If you've always wanted to work in a call center, you might as well join the head of the pack.

We are also accepting applications for : **Trainers**

PARLANCE SYSTEMS INC.

Hand carry your resumé and 1x1 picture to:
PLDT Compound Nicanor Garcia corner Jupiter Sts., Makati City
Email it to:
psi@parlance.com.ph

ePLDT

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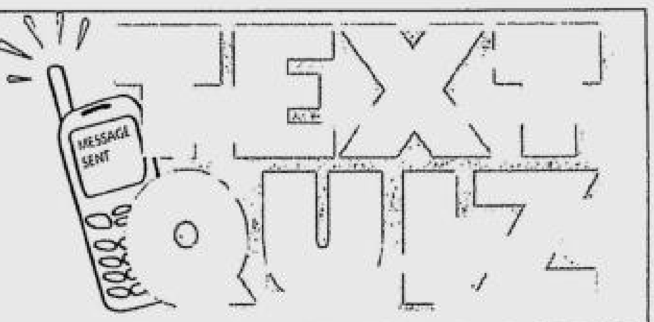
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market



**... and get the chance to win gift certificates from David's Salon!**

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Promo period is from February 29 - April 24, 2004
- Promo is open to all Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text subscribers.
- 5 multiple choice questions will be published every Sunday in the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- TO JOIN and REGISTER: text TQ JOIN <game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/age and send to 2966 for Globe and Touch Mobile or 3996 for Smart and Talk N Text.
- After the registration the system will send a confirmation message. After which, a participant may answer the succeeding questions using this format: TQ <game code><question number><letter of answer>.
- A confirmation message will be sent after receipt of every answer.
- Each set of questions will have a different game code.
- All questions will be taken from the job placements and ads at the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant the corresponding number of raffle entries.
- The number of raffle entries will vary depending on the question answered.
- Once a question in answered correctly, the system will no longer accept any answer for the same question from the same texter.
- A participant who gets to answer all five (5) questions of the week correctly will earn an additional ten (10) raffle entries.
- Entries will only be valid for a specific week and the other weeks will have a different set of entries.
- Answers will be accepted from 12:00 AM Sunday until 11:59 PM of Saturday.
- The cost of sending a text message to this promo is P 2.50 for post-paid and pre-paid subscribers.
- The prize is P 1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificate from David's Salon.
- There will be four (4) weekly winners and eight (8) raffle draws.
- A total of thirty two (32) winners for the duration of the promo.
- Deadline of submission of entries will be at 11:59 PM every Saturday.
- Cellphone numbers and names of participants will be electronically drawn every Monday, 11:00 AM at Buy N' Text office at 88 JS Galsano Bldg., Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City under the supervision of a DTI Representative.
- A participant can only win once per draw.
- All names of weekly winners will be published in the next issue of JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Prizes will be hand-delivered to the winner.
- Prizes for this promo are tax-free.
- Employees of the Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Telecommunications, Inc., Philippine Daily Inquirer and Buy N' Text Corporation and its agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

### WEEK 1 WINNERS

Aivee Q. Balsote of Cainta, Rizal
Rosemarie O. Maravillas of Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Rosalina David of Novaliches, Quezon City
Maria Sheryl Santiago of Malolos City, Bulacan

**TO JOIN:**

First time participants must have to register by answering the question following this format:

**TQ JOIN** *<game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/ age*

Ex: TQ JOIN A1a Rowie A. Balza/143 Empire St. San Lorenzo Village, Makati City/F/22

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text).

After the registration, you may answer the remaining questions using this format:

**TQ** *<game code><question number><letter of answer>*

Ex: TQ A1c

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text)

### GAME CODE: J

1. What is the email address of THE LEATHER COLLECTION?
a. hrd@leathercollection.ph
b. chona@leathercollection.ph
c. leathercollection@yahoo.com
d. employ@leathercollection.com

2. ICT Group. What It Means To Be In ______.
a. touch
b. love
c. the group
d. cue

3. UCPB is in need of Risk Surveyor, Programmer, Asst. Auditors, Processors & ______.
a. Graphic Artists
b. Tellers
c. Cashiers
d. Telemarketers

4. ASIA UNITED BANK is located at 22/F Rm. ____ Antel Global Corporate Center.
a. 1100
b. 506
c. 310
d. 2209

5. Applicants for CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) must submit their application letter, comprehensive resume w/ personal reference on or before ______.
a. March 31, 2004
b. June 1, 2004
c. March 22, 2004
d. April 2, 2004

Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of [illegible]

Visit us at the SM MegaMall JobFair March 26, 27, 28

**EPIXTAR**®

## Earn More. Learn More. Be More.

### General Requirements

- Willing to work in Alabang/Quezon City
- Most positions require the ability to work night shift e.g. 9pm – 5am.
- Filipino citizens or holders of relevant residence status
- Strong verbal & written English skills
- Strong computer skills–Microsoft Office proficiency
- Knowledge of US culture, business enviroment, & geography preferred
- Call center experience preferred
- Bachelors / College Degree preferred

### Benefits

- Competitive wages
- Incentive program
- Professional training
- Opportunity to learn valuable sales, customer service and computer skills
- High energy, motivating, work environment
- Opportunities for career advancement

**We're looking for people who are passionate about their work. Epixtar is an intense, fast-paced telesales company where we care about our customers, the quality of our work, and each other.**

## Sales Executive

Conduct outbound phone sales to businesses and consumers in a high-energy, positive, state-of-the-art work environment offering a variety of products and services on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information.

Work with a focused, results oriented, team environment, while developing your professional sales and customer service skills to enhance your career opportunities. Periodic reviews assess work quality, work efficiency, and communication effectiveness for ongoing performance enhancement.

### Qualifications

Prior sales and/or customer service experience
A clear, distinct, professional speaking voice
Strong professional, sales and customer service skills
PC and Internet experience
Ability to work within a team environment
Ability to type up to 20 wpm
English writing proficiency

## Team Leader

Supervise phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10-12 sales executives. Your mandate will be to drive performance quality within the center on behalf of Epixtar's clients.

Using a variety of statistical reports and real time interaction with the sales executives, you will be charged with constantly improving quality and performance.

The ideal candidate will proactively identify, recommend and implement program enhancements that support client objectives and expectations.

Team Leaders are expected manage and motivate sales executives to help them reach their full potential as Epixtar employees through floor presence (minimum 80%) and one-on-one counseling and coaching.

### Qualifications

Expert knowledge of quality, sales, and customer service processes
Comfortable in rapidly changing and evolving work environment
Strong problem solving skills
Independent, self-starter who drives projects to completion
Prioritizes to manage time and multiple priorities effectively
Reliable and detail oriented with the ability to take direction
Highly developed delegation skills
Strong English verbal and written communication skills
Call center, sales, or customer service experience
Familiarity with U.S. business culture, geography and demographics

## Assistant Operations Manager

Manage phone sales and/or customer relationship management (CRM) activities of 10–15 Team Leaders with a span of control encompassing anywhere from 100–150 agents. Reporting to the program manager, you will be responsible for smooth operations among multiple campaigns.

The ideal candidate will have a thorough command of management best practices, extensive call center experience with a detailed understanding of the specifics of outbound/inbound campaign supervision. You will be expected to provide leadership on the floor and ongoing management of your reports with the ability to quickly and effectively resolve day-to-day call center challenges to realize our clients' business objectives.

You will work closely with team leaders to guide them as they contend with their own management responsibilities. To be effective you will engage in extensive one-on-one counseling and coaching.

### Qualifications

Expert knowledge of teleservices campaign management processes
Demonstrated leadership in a rapidly changing and evolving work environment
Proven ability to develop productive business relationships with peers, subordinates, and customers
Reliable and detail oriented with the ability to take and deliver direction
Highly developed delegation and problem solving skills
Excellent English verbal and written communication skills
Call center experience at middle management level
Some travel or residence in the U.S. preferred

## Sales Trainer

Epixtar's sales trainer will be at the forefront of creating a successful sales team educated in effective sales techniques and call management. The successful candidate will bring extensive practical sales experience together with excellent training methodology and a dynamic personality. This individual will have responsibility to forge a formidable sales force, by providing and teaching the skills and technical know-how to make them top-notch sales executives.

In addition to instructor led training, Epixtar sales trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance reviews, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall level of effectiveness and efficiency.

### Qualifications

Proven ability to generate sales
Proven ability to connect with learners
Dynamic, outgoing personality
Strong sales assessment and mentoring skills
Excellent English verbal and written communication skills
Self-directed individual capable of driving projects to completion with minimal supervision
Familiarity with teleservices campaign management processes preferred
Some travel or residence in the U.S. preferred

## Accent Trainer

The American accent trainer will be responsible for developing, delivering, and evaluating accent training and ongoing speech communication refresher courses. This person should have a complete understanding of all facets of English instruction: listening comprehension, speech clarity, reading comprehension, and written expression. With a thorough knowledge of American culture and regional accents, the candidate will present a picture of U.S. life to balance language instruction.

Together with instructor led training, Epixtar accent trainers will develop and implement training modules, conduct performance evaluation, provide periodic updates and refresher classes to continually raise the overall quality of pronunciation and American English comprehension. The candidate will also be expected to be a subject matter expert on American culture to support ongoing learning opportunities within Epixtar's training environment.

### Qualifications

Complete fluency in English with familiarity of regional accents and colloquialisms
Proven ability to connect with learners in a classroom and production environment
Dynamic, outgoing personality
Self-directed individual capable of driving projects to completion with minimal supervision
College degree in education, journalism, or English related area preferred or commensurate professional experience
Familiarity with teleservices campaign management processes preferred
Some travel or residence in the U.S. preferred

## Receptionist

Epixtar needs a receptionist with an outgoing, engaging personality and the ability to direct calls to the appropriate destination within the organization. We believe that an organization is judged by the first impression it makes on a customer, vendor, potential employee or stock-holder. With the support of ongoing training and scripted materials; establish customer needs, describe products and services, complete sales transactions and capture necessary customer information.

The successful candidate will represent Epixtar as a well-spoken, efficient organization to each and every caller.

### Qualifications

Excellent interpersonal skills
Outgoing, sociable personality
Excellent English verbal and written communication skills
One year of experience working as receptionist or inbound call center agent
Familiarity with U.S. business culture preferred

**Applicants may apply in person Mondays to Wednesdays between 9 am and 6 pm and on Thursdays between 9 am and 1 pm at the 8th Flr., Tower 2, Insular Life Corporate Centre Corporate Ave. cor. Commerce Ave., Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For Inquiries call 8578000. You may also apply online at www.epixtar.com.**

---

We invite you to be part of

# THE JOB WORLD 2004

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

In the Philippine Daily Inquirer

A Special Supplement on the most awaited JOB FAIR of all
JOB WORLD 2004
Issue date: March 28, 2004, Sunday

A tabloid size newspaper supplement specially dedicated to give your company extensive mileage in your efforts to campaign among highly qualified job applicants!

**AVAIL OF OUR VERY SPECIAL RATES**

| Available AD sizes | SPECS | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/8 page | 3.5 cols x 7.5 cm | B X W | 15.45 x 7.5 (h) cm | P5,775.00 |
| 1/4 page | 3.5 cols x 15 cm | B x W | 15.45 x 15 (h) cm | P12,075.00 |
| 1/2 page | 7 cols x 15 cm | B x W | 24.6 x 15 (h) cm | P24,150.00 |
| Full Page | 7 cols x 30 cm | B x w | 24.6 x 15 (h) cm | P48,300.00 |

*Supplement rates are VAT inclusive

Material Specs : Positive film or camera ready material (black and white only) in actual size
Reservation deadline :18 March 2004
Advertisement Material deadline: 20 March 2004
Payment deadline : 20 March 2004 (upon submission of ad material)

## ADVERTISEMENT REPLY FORM

For details, please contact the organizer
NEOTRADE ENTERPRISES
Unit 703 Cityland 10, Tower 2, 6817 HV Dela Costa St.,
cor. Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City
Tel. 812 9099 and 812 3973
Fax 812 7450

YES! We are interested to advertise in the JOB WORLD 2004 Special Supplement in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 28, 2004

Ad Size: 1/8 page 1/4 page 1/2 page Full Page Double Spread

Name: __________
Title : __________
Company : __________
Telephone : __________ Fax: __________
Signature : __________

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[illegible] stride

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

# CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALIST

*JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:*

- Offer products & services through the telephone & other specified means of communications to a targeted list of customers in behalf of the products/services being offered
- Provide necessary information about the products & services
- Document all pertinent customer data using client prescribed forms
- Meet the productivity requirements of clients on qualified calls

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of any four-year course
- With excellent interpersonal & communication skills in English using American grammar, diction, intonation, inflection & articulation

*ADVANTAGES:*

- Previous experience in customer relations management, sales or marketing
- Ability to speak any foreign language (Spanish, Canadian, French, Chinese, etc...)

# LANGUAGE TRAINING SPECIALIST

*JOB RESPONISIBILITIES:*

- Design and conduct courses on Communications, Accent, and Grammar.
- Conduct regular on-floor language audit to capture lapses in grammar, accent and other language skills.
- Facilitate group or one-on-one language coaching sessions.

*JOB REQUIREMENTS:*

- HR / Psychology / Communications or Languages
- 25-35 years old
- Has passion for training and shows leadership capability
- Strong course design, facilitation, and platform skills
- Proficient in assessing training needs or requirements as well as measuring results of training
- At least 2 years experience teaching TOEFL, TESOL, Grammar, and/or English as a Second Language (ESL), and/or English as a Foreign Language (EFL)
- Experienced in the communicative, facilitative, and experiential approaches to teaching/training
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Self-starter: can work w/ minimum supervision
- Strong service orientation – people person - can relate w/ people at diff. levels of the organization
- Willing to learn and a Team Player
- Organized, Analytic, and Computer Literate

*ADVANTAGES:*

- Preferably female and single
- Multi-cultural experience
- Exposure in the call center industry would be an advantage
- Experience in speech or language coaching is a definite advantage

**Interested parties can send their resume via post or fax. You can also email us at jobs@webservasia.com.ph or visit our website at www.globalstride.com**
**29Th Floor IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City Cyberpark Libis, Quezon City 1100;**
**Tel. 911-8866 / Fax. 911-8854**

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# JOB Market OVERSEAS

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## CALIFORNIA *L.A. & San Francisco* - IMMIGRANT VISA & DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

## CGFNS NURSES

for DIRECT EMPLOYMENT with

## *Eva Care Group*

Pioneer Services of Evergreen Health Care Management Corp.

**NCLEX to be taken in California, U.S.A.**

EVA CARE GROUP believes in affordable quality health care, superior attentive services, choices and options. We have been serving various settings of today's healthcare system *since 1996*. As experts in medical and rehabilitaiton services, we have MD, registered PT, OT, ST and nursing staff that operate under the direction of our primary physicians.

Every member of our team is trained to provide the finest care available. EVA CARE GROUP is a subsidiary of ***Evergreen Corporation***, one of the largest corporations in the world with over ***US$300 million*** in revenues for the ***fiscal year 2004***. Our company currently operates 22 outpatient clinics, acute and sub-acute hospitals, skilled nursing facilities in ***Northern & Southern California***. We have the best management team and clinicians under the most efficient administration system. Each member of our team is well-trained in their field of specialty.

**MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION! AVAIL OF OUR EXPERTISE AND AVOID SALARY CUTS BY STAFFING ENTITIES AND HOSPITAL CONTRACTORS.**

JOIN OUR **630** RNs & THEIR **561** DEPENDENTS WHOM WE HAVE DEPLOYED UNDER EB-3 IMMIGRANT VISAS. THEY WERE RELOCATED AND CONVENIENTLY SETTLED IN DIFFERENT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND STATES OF THEIR CHOICE.

***Come and meet Eva Care's representatives on the following final interview dates:***

**APRIL 16th, 17th, & 18th (Fri-Sun) at IPAMS**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TO COVER THE FOLLOWING FEES:

- **USCIS Immigration / NVC Visa Fees**
- Review Fees for **TSE or IELTS, and NCLEX**
- Application for **TOEFL/TWE, TSE, or IELTS**
- Application for **CALIFORNIA BON and NCLEX**
- Medical Examination Fee at SLMCEC
- Airfare to the U.S.A. & **Three (3) Months Housing**

RNs with passing scores in CGFNS, TSE, IELTS, or NCLEX may apply. To take advantage of this opportunity, candidates must apply ASAP by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

**IPAMS**
since 1972
Registration No. 10036522
POEA-161-LB-040102-R

**INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.**
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St., 1004 Malate, Manila
E-Mail: us@ipams.com / Fax: 521-1189 or 521-1320
U.S. Division Mobile No.: 0917-8486637 or 0918-9215892
Website: www.ipams.com

**ABSOLUTELY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED/BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS**

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## IPAMS *INTERNATIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES*

### KOBELCO / KOBE STEEL CO.

*JAPAN*

**SAFETY OFFICERS & CHEMICAL DISPOSAL SYSTEM SPECIALISTS**

PREVIOUS EXPRIENCE IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL HANDLING. KNOWLEDGEABLE IN HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL AGENTS (E.G. LEWISITE, MUSTARD GAS) PREFERABLY EXPERIENCED IN US CHEMICAL WEAPONS HANDLING DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN US MILITARY BASES LIKE SUBIC NAVAL BASE, DIEGO GARCIA OR JOHNSTON ATTOL. CERTIFICATIONS RELATED TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS TRAINING WOULD BE A STRONG ADVANTAGE. BE ABLE TO WORK WITH JAPANESE NATIONALS.

### EMIRATES GROUP

*DUBAI, UAE*

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS
CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS
PASSENGER SERVICE AGENTS
GROUND DISPATCHERS
LOAD CONTROL SUPERVISORS
LOADING TEAM LEADERS
ELECTRICIANS / MECHANICS - WORKSHOP
LEAD AIRCRAFT MECHS. *(AVIONICS / IFE/ CABIN)*
SENIOR MECHANICS - LINE

### QATAR AIRWAYS

*DOHA, QATAR*

SENIOR MANAGER - COMMERCIAL OPS.
SENIOR MANAGER - YIELD MANAGEMENT
SENIOR MANAGER - CARGO SALES
SENIOR MANAGER - GROUND SERVICES
MANAGER - GROUND SERVICES
AREA MANAGER (OVERSEAS)
DISTRICT SALES MANAGER
MANAGER - CORPORATE SALES
MANAGER - QR HOLIDAYS
MANAGER - CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SENIOR ALLIANCES OFFICERS
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E-mail: employment@ipams.com Website: www.ipams.com

ABSOLUTELY NO RECRUITMENT / DEPLOYMENT FEES * FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY

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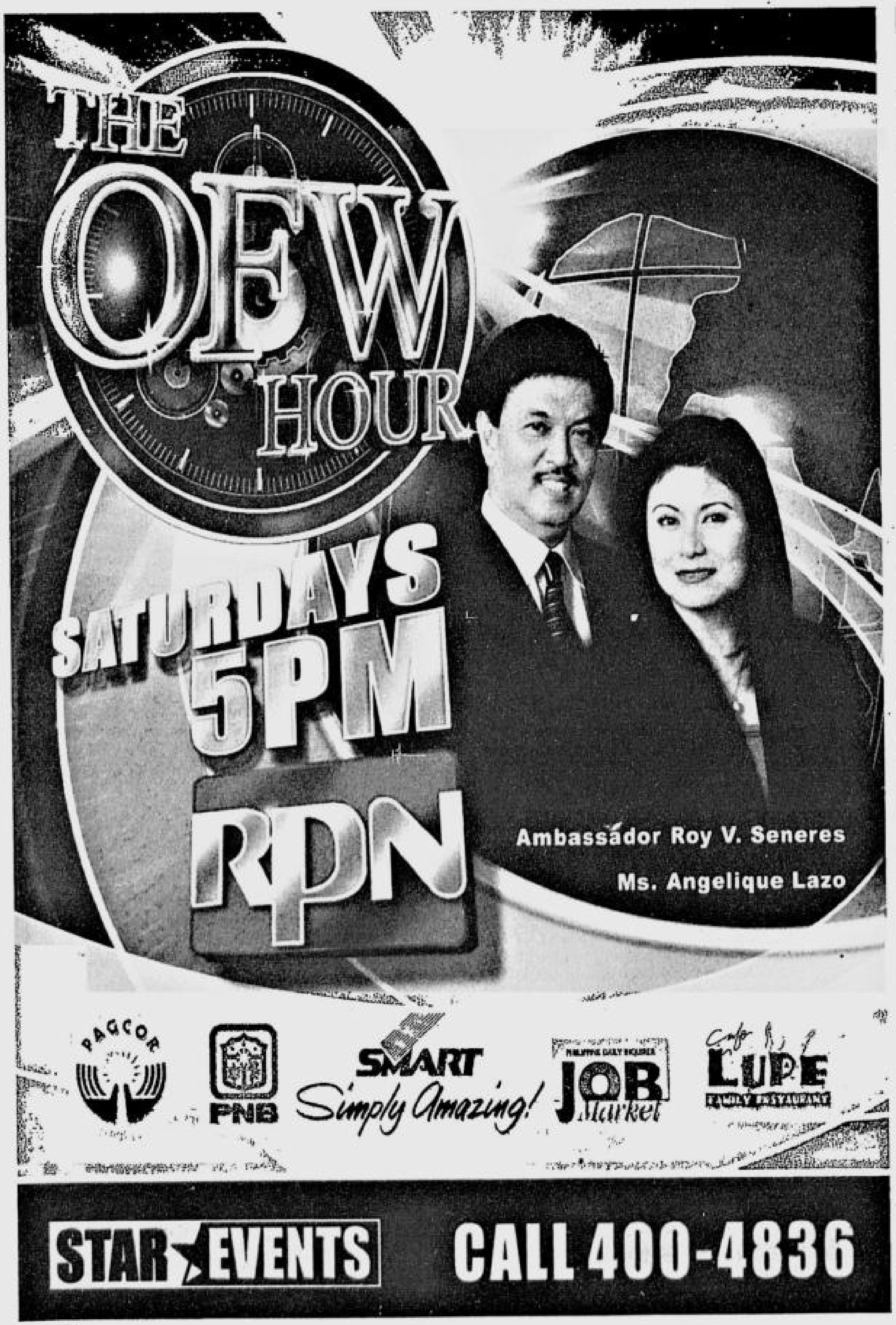

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Finalist for Best News Magazine CMMA 2003

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THE REWARDS.

Celebrate the Overseas Pinoy Experience on

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Directed by Don Escudero

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**SATURDAYS AT 2:30 PM ON RPN 9.**
**with replays on Wednesdays at 6:00 AM**

ALSO SEEN AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH ABS-CBN'S THE FILIPINO CHANNEL

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## JOB Market

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

## Resumé Box

We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

**Want to work in a Customer Service/ Telemarketing center?**

## FOCUS CARE CORPORATION

**The #1 LEADER in providing Long Distance Service to Filipinos in the US, Canada and Australia**

## NOW HIRING!!!

### Outbound Telemarketers

- ✓ College level or graduate from a reputable school
- ✓ Able to express self with ease in English/Tagalog
- ✓ With excellent oral and listening skills
- ✓ With impressive voice quality, can project effectively and enthusiastically over the phone
- ✓ Confident and can readily influence clients given limited/short conversation time
- ✓ Successful sales experience is a MUST
- ✓ Hardworking and determined to excel under minimum supervision
- ✓ Willing to work on Graveyard Shift (10 pm to 6:30 am)

### Customer Relations Officer

- ✓ Excellent PR and marketing skills
- ✓ With 1-2 years of solid work experience in customer service (supervisory level)
- ✓ Good oral & written communication skills (English/ Tagalog)
- ✓ Team player, analytical, good organizational skills

### Database Programmer

- ✓ Proficient in database programming languages
- ✓ Analytical and well-organized

*Apply personally with resumé at:*

***11TH Floor Unit A/B, Strata 2000,***
***Emerald Avenue,***
***Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600***

***A very competitive salary and incentives commensurate to performance await qualified applicants.***

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The industry leader in the financial services market is looking for **TEN EXCEPTIONAL MEN AND WOMEN** to work as

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

Job responsibility includes successfully inviting high net-worth individuals to open an account, participate in marketing events, organize area-wide sales presentations and developing alternative sales channels. Interested applicants must have a strong interest in sales, plus equally effective oral and written communication skills. Two to three years work experience in Sales or Financial Services preferred, however fresh graduates can also apply. Determination, enthusiasm, passion for excellence are vital qualities to succeed in the company.

In store for each applicant is a rare opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills and an attractive career package including salary plus exciting incentive pay-outs.

Interested applicants must send their resumés to the address below no later than March 31, 2004.

**P.O. BOX 2974**
**Quezon City Post Office**
**Philippines**

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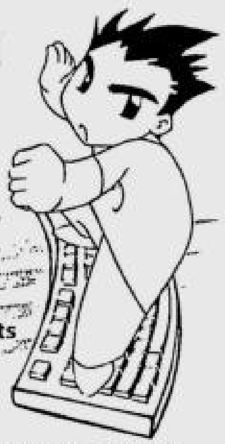
# WANTED:

## Programmers with the right KUNG FU



**You are a masterless ronin. Scripting is your Tao. SQL is your temple. Your mind is like water-- soft and flexible, but able to cut through mountains. With the strength of a river, your logic cuts through development problems with little pause.**

- * excellent in PHP 4
- * knowledge in MySQL 4, db design and deployment in redhat 9
- * hard knowledge on linux redhat 9, apache 2.0
- * javascript (cross-browser)
- * html 4 and css
- * XML 1.0 / SAX / DOM
- * fast learner
- * considerable knowledge in data modeling
- * able to work well under pressure in a team environment.
- * result-oriented person
- * needs to articulate (preferably good communication skills: english[written and oral])
- * has a keen eye for detail
- * pleasing personality

Applicants should provide/send the following documents to us via email. Four documents are required.

1. A brief resumé providing your name, current contact info and history of education and employment. Please include references (no relations).
2. A comprehensive listing of past work and project involvements. Please state what your role/s were and specific tasks that you performed for the project. Use as many pages as you require.
3. An essay talking about your fighting style and kind of work you are dreaming of. It should be no longer than one page (letter-sized) double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman or Helvetica.
4. A photograph of your meanest fighting face (may be included in the basic resumé)

All incomplete applications will be rejected.*
Documents must be provided in either MS WORD or PDF formats.
Selected applicants will be interviewed.

SLINGSHOT INTERACTIVE

Email your package to:
jobs@slingshot.ph

More info at http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**FOUNDATION FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL DEV'T., INC. (FEDI)**, a non-governmental organization, with a community-based child and family program is in need of:

## SOCIAL WORKER

- Female/male not more than 25 years old preferably single
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work graduate preferably licensed RSW
- At least 6 months experience in NGO-child and family program is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- High sense of family values, responsible, hardworking and organized
- Good interpersonal relations
- Computer literate

Please send resumé with recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Melody M. Foronda
Rm. 104 David I Bldg., 567 Shaw Blvd.,
Bgy. Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City
(Please indicate SW-A on the envelope)

E-mail add: fedi@edsamail.com.ph
Social Worker (Subject)

---

## WANTED IMMEDIATELY

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the project design, implementation and evaluation in the area of education. The incumbent of this position will be involved and will have a principal role in the conception, design, development, negotiation and implementation of high visibility and complex programs and projects in the education sector. As a recognized professional in his/her field, he/she shall be responsible for seeking out collaboration and coordination opportunities with officials and high-level personnel of the Philippine Government, of donor institutions, private sector business and philanthropic organizations. He/She will provide substantive advice and support in the formulation and administration of the organization's over-all educational development program in the Philippines. He/She will serve as Advisor to the organization on all matters relating to policies and developments in the Philippine education sector. In addition to sector responsibilities, he/she will also have direct project management responsibility for specific activities within the sector. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree relevant to development assistance such as education, public or business administration, economics, and the like. Advanced degree is highly desirable. From five (5) to seven (7) years of progressive responsibility in project or related management work, including experience in the indicated field. At least four (4) years of this experience must be with donor agencies, private sector, or government organizations. Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, and ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations are essential.

*Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.*

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than March 26, 2004 to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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## Elite Garments International, Inc.

owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

### JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

- Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladies teenwear
- Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- W/ artistic background & at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- Mature, with leadership capabilities
- Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

### LOGISTICS & INVENTORY SUPERVISOR

- M/F, below 35 yrs. old, w/ Engineering background
- At least 3 yrs.exp. in: Inventory planning, warehouse management & distribution planning in retail and/or manufacturing industries.
- Highly organized & analytical

### ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Female, Accounting Grad, below 30 yrs. old
- With 1 to 2 yrs. exposure on Accounting functions
- Computer literate, knowledge in MS office
- Hardworking & can work with minimum supervision

Send resume' with school credentials or fax/e-mail at:
**PERSONNEL DEPT.**
996 P. Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail :grace @elitegarments.com

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**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**

## ACCOUNTANTS /INTERNAL AUDITOR

Male/female not more than 30 years old, Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, computer literate expertise in Importation & Documentation, Bookkeeping, Payroll, & Inventory, Familiar with Government reports/ Auditing and General Accounting with valid Driver's License.

## PROCESS ENGINEER

Male not more than 25 years old, with exposure in the areas of productivity improvement & Analysis, Time and Motion Study, Line balancing. Newly graduates are also welcome. Willing to work in a shifting schedule. With valid driver's license.

## INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS

Male, graduate of any Vocational course or its equivalent 3-4 yrs work experience on repairs pumps, air-conditioning, air-compressor, and hydraulic and electrical lifts, emergency generators. Can trouble shoots and identify faults of mechanical system and make possible solutions. A certified mechanic is an advantage. Experience in implementing preventive maintenance schedules of equipments must have a good and positive work attitudes, willing to be assigned at Calamba Area.

## SALES & MARKETING ASST.

Male not more than 28 years old, Graduate of any four course with at least 3 yrs experience in the field of marketing and aftermarket service operations, holder of a valid driver's license, computer literate, not more than 28 yrs old.

## BRP SUPERVISOR (AUTO PAINTING)

Male not more than 35 yrs old, with good experience (SPRAY BOOTH oven type) can handle 12 people willing to work even Sundays & Holidays.

## DRIVERS

Male not more than 30 years old with Professional Driver's License (code # 1, 2 & 3) knowledge in trouble shooting, familiar within Metro Manila, willing to render long overtime & shifting schedule.

These are urgent requirements interested applicants may apply in person or send their resume with recent 2 X 2 photo to:

**SUBURBIA AUTOMOTIVE VENTURES, INC.**
G13 Km 23 Ortigas Ave., Extn. Taytay Rizal
Tel no. 660-58-21 / e-mail address usservoinc@edsamail.com.ph
Fax 658-00-52

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AMELLAR SOLUTIONS
Making IT Work For You.

**We are in need of the following:**

- ➢ **OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMER TRAINEES**
  - Preferably fresh graduate; BS Computer Science or any related course
  - Familiar with at least 1 Object-Oriented Programming Language
  - Must Possess strong logic and analytical skills
  - Efficient, team worker and with good moral character
  - Must be willing to travel around the country
- ➢ **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TRAINEES**
  - Preferably fresh graduate; BS Computer Science or any related course
  - Must possess strong analytical and interpersonal skills
  - Possesses excellent writing and communication skills
  - Organized and flexible
  - Efficient, team worker and with good moral character
- ➢ **APPLICATION SUPPORT ENGINEER TRAINEES/ INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT TRAINEES**
  - Preferably fresh graduate, BS Computer Science or any related course
  - Must possess strong logical, analytical and interpersonal skills
  - Possesses good writing and communication skills
  - Efficient, team worker and with good moral character
  - Must be willing to travel
- ➢ **TECHNOLOGY RESEARCHERS**
  - BS Computer Engineering/ Computer Science or any related course
  - Innovative, flexible and resourceful
  - Must be able to put his research to practical application
  - Efficient, team worker and with good moral character
- ➢ **COMPANY DRIVERS**
  - With Professional driver's license
  - At least high school graduate between 25 to 40 years of age
  - With at least 5 years driving experience
  - Familiar and willing to drive with in Metro Manila and different areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

*For interested applicants, please send your letter of application and resume to:*

**THE OOP/OLTP Manager c/o Administrative Officer**
**OOP/OLTP Division**
**Amellar Solutions**
#46 April St., Congressional Village, Project 8, Q.C

*Or submit it as a Rich Text Format attachment through this e mail address* recruit@amellar.com. Visit our website at www.amellar.com.

# bench/ now hiring!

Bench, the country's biggest name in fashion retail, in search of customer-oriented people who can be part of our team.

## AREA MANAGERS

- Male or female; not over 40 years old;
- Marketing or Business Administration graduate of a reputable school or university;
- Ability to motivate teamwork;
- Ability to interact with people on all levels inside and outside of the organization;
- Willing to travel within the Philippines as may be required by the job.

## AD & PROMO OFFICER

- Male; not more than 30 years old;
- Masscom or Advertising graduate from a reputable school;
- Knowledgeable of advertising requirements, observations and conceptualizing/implementing market planning, promotion and launching campaigns;
- Can develop creative and effective advertising concepts;
- Excellent in oral and written communication;
- Preferably with writing skills (Press relations/Features);
- At least 2-3 years work experience in advertising agency;
- Result oriented, aggressive, creative and can work independently.

## ORACLE DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

- Must have at least Bachelor Degree of Computer Science or Information Technology or equivalent;
- Must have at least 4 years of relevant working experience;
- Candidates must have strong technical knowledge and hands-on experience with the Oracle 81/91 and SQL Server v7/2000 RDBMS systems including DB setup, configuration and optimization;
- Experience in Oracle database replication, partitioning, and other solutions for database scaling and high availability;
- Experience in advanced PL/SQL programming, triggers, stored-procedures, and complex SQL statements;
- Have hands-on experience with the Unix (Solaris), K-shell programming and Windows servers;
- Certifications for Oracle (OCP DBA) and SQL Server (MCDBA) a plus;
- Good Verbal and written communication skills expected;
- Good analytical skills; good team player, fast-learner, flexible and dependable with desire to acquire new technical skills
- Must be able to work independently with minimal supervision

## BOUTIQUE MANAGER – TRAINEES

- Male/Female; single or married;
- Between 21-30 years old;
- Graduate of any Business related courses;
- Preferably with work related experience in retail / food operations but not necessary;
- Willing to work in shifting schedule and during holidays;
- Possesses leadership and supervisory potentials;
- Good communication skills;
- Result-oriented, hardworking and can work with minimum supervision.

## MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

- Female, between 22-28 years old;
- Industrial Engineering or Business Management graduate from a reputable schools;
- Experience in formulating marketing analysis is an advantage;
- Resourceful and able to work under minimum supervision.

## NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- Must have at least Bachelor Degree of Computer Science or Information Technology or equivalent;
- Candidates must have a minimum of 4 years experience as a Network Administrator;
- Certifications in MCSE, MCSA, CCNA is a plus;
- Working technical knowledge of network and PC operating systems;
- Extensive application support experience with Windows 2000, Server 2003, Active Directory, Terminal Services, Clustering, Network Load Balancing, SQL, IIS, DNS, DHCP, WINS Remote Access Connectivity problems;
- Working technical knowledge of current network hardware and standards, including IBM, Compaq/HP and Cisco;
- Must possess the ability to maintain, identify and troubleshoot networking devices and infrastructure like routers, bridges, hubs and gateways;
- Must be able to communicate well both written and orally;
- Ability to work independently is a must;
- Needs to be able to work as a team, as well;
- Must be detail oriented and possess strong customer service and communication skills;
- Ability to maintain inventory control and reporting required.

**Please come for interview and bring your resumé with transcript of records and Recent 2x2 ID picture**

SUYEN CORPORATION
2214 Tolentino Street, Pasay City, 1304 Philippines
t 8872311
f 8448150
e hr@benchtm.com
w www.benchtm.com

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ICT GROUP
The CRM Services Company

## *What It Means To Be In Touch*

**ICT GROUP is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.**

**More than 11,000 ICT GROUP employees at nearly 50 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.**

**In the Philippines, ICT Group has been noted as one of the fast-growing call centers in Manila giving opportunities to individuals who are comfortable with technology and committed to client satisfaction and total quality.**

## Customer Service Representative

**Responsibilities:**

- Acts as front-line contact with customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to problems, queries, and requests of the customer
- Ensures customer satisfaction

**Requirements:**

1.Financial Account
  - Preferably with experience in a mortgage or financial account

2.Sales Account
  - Preferably with experience in sales and telemarketing

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's / College Degree
- Excellent communication skills in con[illegible] E[illegible]sh
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the custome[illegible]nd with the team
- Willing to work on nighttime shifting sched[illegible]
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

**Interested applicants may send their r[illegible] recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or visit us at the 19th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.**

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CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

**Catholic Relief Services** reaches out to people in more than 90 countries around the world to alleviate poverty and suffering. The CRS Southeast, East Asia, and the Pacific Regional Office (SEAPRO) seeks an HIV/AIDS Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) to lead regional programming efforts in HIV/AIDS strategy development and implementation.

## REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR (RTA) FOR HIV/AIDS

The primary responsibility of the RTA for HIV/AIDS is to provide technical assistance to the region and country programs to expand CRS' outreach in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The RTA will be responsible for the development of regional plans, proposals and strategies; developing action plans, including assistance in conducting situational analysis of the local HIV/AIDS environment, and conducting assessments of country program staff and partner capacity. Candidates should be able to build relationships with other organizations as a part of a learning network; and provide training to partners and country program staff as necessary. The RTA will also lead the design and implementation of project monitoring and evaluation systems.

### Qualifications

- Medical background-Medical Doctor, Nurse, or Master's degree in Public Health, or related field.
- At least 5 years living and working in relief/development context, preferably in HIV/AIDS projects for prevention, care and support.
- Strong background in Health/HIV/AIDS assessments and program implementation. Experience with grant proposal writing for HIV/AIDS projects and in implementing participatory planning and evaluation methods.
- Strong analytical skills, as well as written and oral English communication. Proven ability to work in a team and interact in cross-cultural setting. Willing and able to travel extensively.

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resume with personal references via e-mail on or before April 2, 2004 to:

**recruitment@crs-seapro.org**

*(Only qualified applicants will be notified. No phone calls please.)*

For more details about CRS, please consult
our website at www.catholicrelief.org.

Catholic Relief Services-USCCB
Philippine Program, Intramuros, Manila

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# FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila

announces openings for

## DISCIPLINE OFFICERS

**Qualifications:**

- must be a B.S. in Criminology graduate
- with at least one year related work experience

Please send letter of application, resume, copies of transcript of records, diploma, other credentials and photo to:

**Mr. Cef D. Sta. Maria**
Vice President for Operations

Ground Floor, Administration Building
Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila
cstamaria@feu.edu.ph
Telefax 736-0853
www.feu.edu.ph

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*Quality In Everything We Do*

SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, and the leading professional services firm in the country, invites suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the following position:

## Multimedia Artist

- Graduate of Fine Arts, Multimedia or any related course
- Competency in photography & video production
- Proficiency in oral & written communications
- Outgoing personality
- Team player

Competitive compensation, benefits, world-class training and professional growth await successful applicants. To apply, email your resumé to sgvhrd@ph.ey.com or mail to:

**Human Resources Group**
3F, SGV 1 Bldg.
6760 Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1226

*Please indicate in the cover letter or subject line the Job Code: MA-04.*

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004
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**JOB*Market*** is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Thursday 12:00 noon

Part 2

*Where You Find The Best.*

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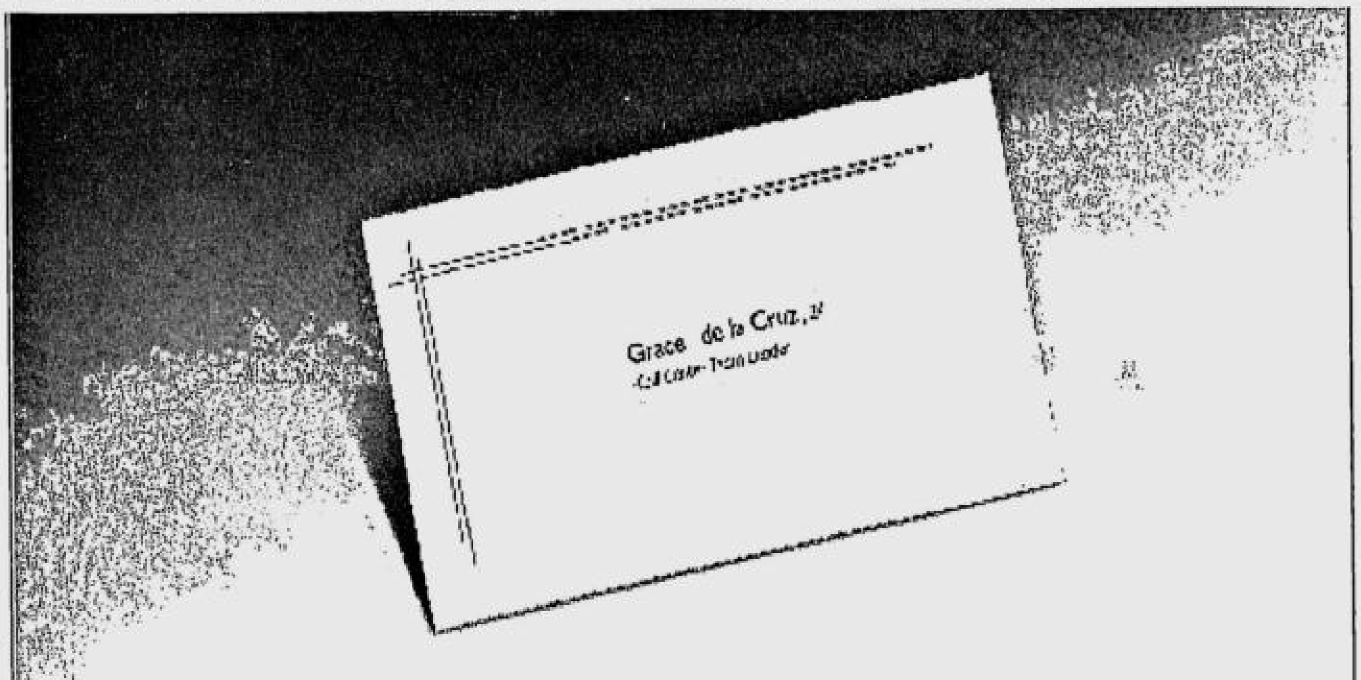
Consultants, Inc.

## OUR CLIENTS ARE GROWING AND SO ARE WE...



## Double your market price

You are an asset that can command a very good compensation if you invest yourself in the right industry.

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First, we help you learn to write a resume that highlights your unique strengths.

Second, your resume is open to numerous other job opportunities.

Third, you're enriched by our training programs.

Fourth, you get continuous career advice and coaching even when you're on top.

That is a goal we share -- for YOU to reach your full potential and be well-paid for it.

Please bring your resumé personally to 12B LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City.
Or call 884-1227 to 32 or 884-1218
Or e-mail: gcsorongon@johnclements.com and jobopenings@johnclements.com.
Or textprofile (space) <CSR> or <TSR> (space) <name, cellphone and landline>
and send to 700 JOBS (700-5627). (For SMART users only)

Got what it takes? Check these out!

* Fresh Graduate

* Graduate of IT or computer-related course

* Excellent English communication skills

* Work experience in a call center, telecom company or a bank

* Willing to work on a graveyard shift

* Well-developed interpersonal skills

*Hurry! Apply now! Bring this ad plus three (3) qualified friends and get a gift certificate*

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**John Clements**
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## An open invitation to all

In keeping with our company's trust to continuously provide quality manpower to our clients, we enjoin highly competent and results-oriented individuals to fill up the following posts:

### If you are

- **Graduates of Accounting, CPA or non-CPA**
- **Equipped with 1 to 3 year-related experience in Accounts Payable, Invoice Processing, SAP General Ledger and Data Flow or with supervisory experience in General Accounting functions**
- **Flexible and proficient in English**
- **Willing to work on graveyard shifts**

### Then

Please forward your comprehensive resumes with recent photos indicating your contact phone numbers to the address below.

**Type Profile (space)<ACCTG>(space)<name, contact numbers>and send to 700JOBS (700-5627). *For SMART users only**

**Professional Staffers**

Level 12B, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
884-1227 / 884-1169 / 884-1418
Email : prostaffers@johnclements.com
www.johnclements.com

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# Our success is no secret...

Ambergris Solutions is a leading Philippine-based provider of offshore quality customer care services or American companies in the utilities, IT and telecommunications industries through local infrastructure. Our facilities, training and operations program, and our highly trained professionals, make us the most admired, fastest growing Philippine-based company in the call center industry.

**Ambergris Solutions welcomes MCI to our portfolio of clients. MCI is one of the biggest and most well-established telecommunications companies based in theUnited States. With an extensive span that serves more than 20 million business and residential customer$, MCI delivers a comprehensive selection of local-to-global business data,internet and voice services.**

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- Team Captains
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- HR Associates
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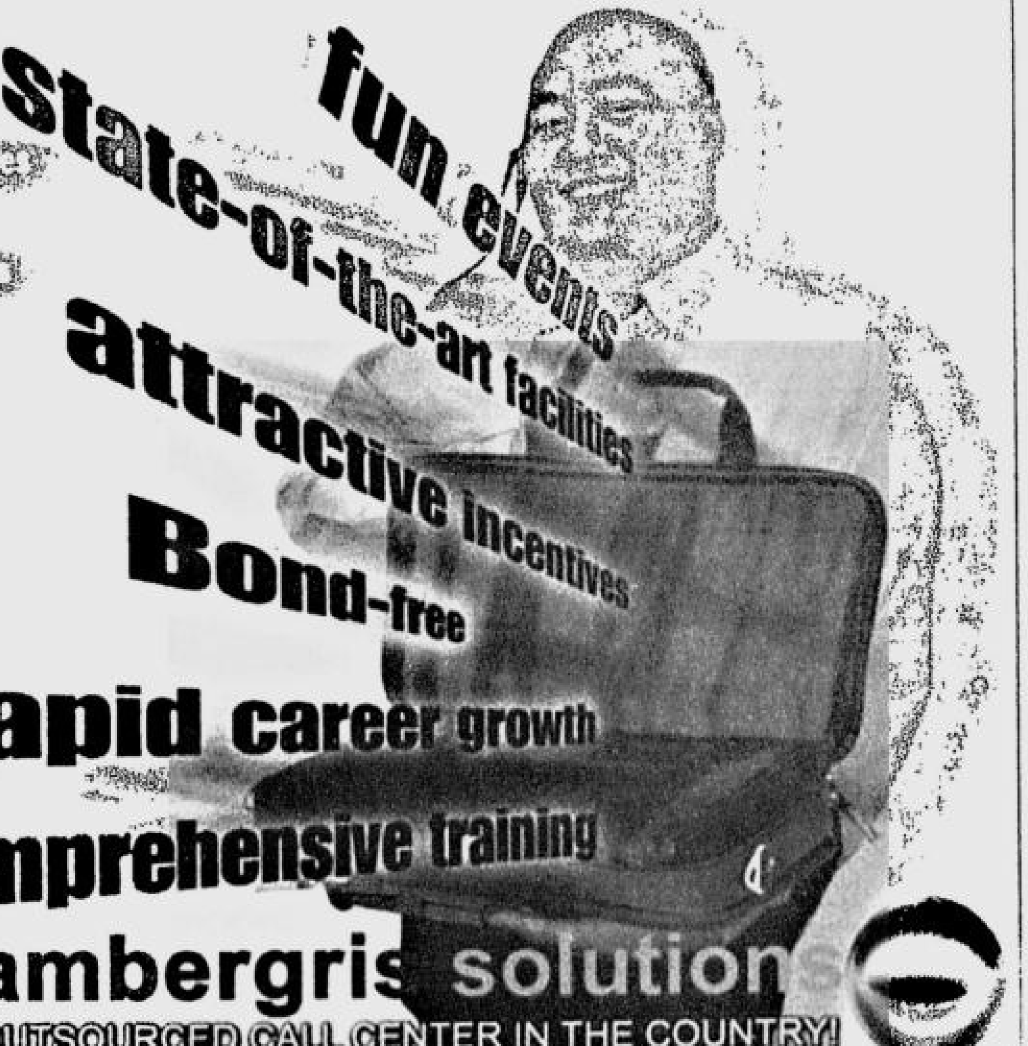
- Company Nurses
- Front Desk Associates



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One of the top ten non-life insurance company, invites service-oriented and dynamic professionals for its continuous drive for excellence in Head Office (HOF) and various Extension Offices:

## RISK SURVEYOR (HOF)

☑ College graduate, preferably Civil or Mechanical Engineering major
☑ Not over 30 years old, Male
☑ With at least 3 years experience in the field
☑ Has above average communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Office Applications)

## PROGRAMMER (HOF)

☑ College graduate, BS Computer Science or any computer related course
☑ Not over 28 years old, preferably single
☑ With at least one (1) year programming experience
☑ Has above average communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Office Applications)

## ASSISTANT AUDITORS (HOF)

☑ College graduate, Accounting major, CPA an advantage
☑ Not over 28 years old, preferably single
☑ With above average communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Office Applications)

## PROCESSORS

**(HOF, Olongapo, Lucena, Cabanatuan)**
☑ College graduate; preferably business course
☑ Not over 25 years old, preferably single
☑ With above average communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Office Applications)
☑ With pleasing personality

## CASHIERS

**(Olongapo, Lucena, Cabanatuan)**
☑ College graduate; BS Accountancy major or any related course
☑ Not over 25 years old, preferably single
☑ With above average communication skills
☑ Computer literate (MS Office Applications)
☑ With pleasing personality

Interested applicants must bring their Letter of Application, Resume (not over than 2 pages), Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 ID picture to:

For **Olongapo Applicants** you may come at 3rd Floor 1095 Rizal Avenue, West Tapinac, Olongapo City for interview on March 22 – 26, 2004 between 8:00 AM up to 12:00 NN only. Look for Mr. Jojo Malillin.

For **Lucena Applicants** you may come at 3rd Floor UCPB Centro Building Quezon Avenue corner San Fernando St., Lucena City for interview on March 22 – 26, 2004 between 8:00 AM up to 12:00 NN only. Look for Mr. Mon Fernandez.

For **Cabanatuan Applicants** you may come at 3rd Floor VP Building Bo. Concepcion, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City for interview on March 22 – 26, 2004 between 8:00 AM up to 12:00 NN only. Look for Mr. Willie Isla.

For **Head Office Applicants** you may come at 25th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Screening tests shall be conducted on March 22 – 25, 2004 between 8:00 AM up to 3:00 PM only.

To successful candidates, we guarantee 15 months compensation and a competitive benefits package that includes rice subsidy; housing, car and other financial loans at low interest rates; medical, insurance and retirement plans; plus special performance incentives and a lot more.

**HURRY APPLY NOW, THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS**

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**An established multi-national signage and advertising company is looking for creative, self-driven and hardworking people.**

### Job Description : Sales Manager

- Responsible for managing the sales force of the company. Ensure that sales production targets are met. Is also expected to provide the sales force with continuous guidance and support in penetrating target markets enhancing skills and for ensuring that activity levels are up to standard.
- Ability to work under pressure, with high level of integrity and strong competitive drive;
- Background and experience in signage fabrication and advertising
- Competitive pay package inclusive of salary, commission & overriding commission

### Job Description : Sales Executive

- Background and experience in signage fabrication an advantage
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Hardworking, aggressive and resourceful
- Pleasant personality

### Job Description : Estimator

- Good knowledge in fabrication projects, project management and costing
- Strong mathematical foundation and has a good analytical mind
- Able to perform under pressure, motivated and ability to communicate effectively
- Background in computer aided design and drafting an advantage but not required
- Background and experience in signage fabrication an advantage but not required

### Job Description : Production Supervisor/Project Coordinator/Project Manager

- Development of project and ability to deal with project progress and related issue to the management in a regular basic.
- Major communication window to the customers and drive project in schedule time frame.
- Able to lead and manage technically and commercially independently with support of existing staff force.
- To manage tasks involves tender preparations/proposals, conduction meetings and presentations.

- Responsible for the effective planning, coordination and execution of projects, liaising with clients and consultant; closely supervising projects to ensure that they are within cost control andunng the conformance or specifications, as well as meeting delivery schedules, quality requirements and safety standards.

### Job Description : Autocad Cad Operator/ Draftsman/Graphic Artist

- Proficient with Autocad Cad Operator/Draftsman/Graphic Artist
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Position is open to fresh graduates.
- Full-time positions available

P.O. Box 1200
Makati Central Post Office
1252 Makati City
Philippines

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**NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
**NEDA Bldg., St. Josemana Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**
**Information Technology Coordination Staff**
**Tel. Nos. (632) 631-37-29/01/Fax No.: (632) 635-47-94**

**We are in need of the following:**

## DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

| | |
|---|---|
| Education | Bachelor's degree relevant to the job |
| Experience | Two yrs. of experience in Oracle Database Administration |
| Eligibility | Career Service Professional or 2nd level eligibility |

## COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II

| | |
|---|---|
| Education | Bachelor's degree relevant to the job |
| Experience | One yr. experience in computer programming and systems analysis & design (with knowledge on Oracle programming) |
| Training | Four hours of relevant training |
| Eligibility | Career Service Professional or 2nd level eligibility |

**Application letter with Curriculum Vitaé addressed to Director Daniel F. Pabellon (see above address).**
**Deadline: not later than 24 March 2004**

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***VSO Bahaginan*** is VSO's initiative that works in development through volunteers. It offers a unique opportunity for Filipinos to share their skills and learn about another culture elsewhere in the developing world. Currently, there are over 80 VSO Filipino volunteers serving in over 20 countries around the world. It also provides technical support towards the development of local volunteering programmes and initiatives.

***VSO Bahaginan welcomes applications for a high quality, committed professional as:***

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS OFFICER

**The Post Holder will be expected** to deliver effective IT systems that benefit VSO Bahaginan. To identify information systems that would be appropriate for supporting VSO Bahaginan's objectives. To implement projects that achieve maximum benefit within the VSO Bahaginan IT strategy. To liaise with VSO IT staff internationally in providing optimum solutions and support.

**Key responsibilities will include the following;**

- Manage and acquire support contract for VSO Bahaginan IT equipment
- Act as the contact person for all IT issues relating to VSO Bahaginan
- Coordinate the volunteer database (VA) system
- Establish & maintain office security at a high level
- Maintain the electronic and manual volunteer filing system
- In coordination with the officer- in-charge of the Bahaginan learning center, maintain a database of all available learning materials and registry
- Provide IT advice, guidance and support to VSO Bahaginan staff or voluntary workers on a regular basis.

*A comprehensive Job Description will be made available to those who will be shortlisted.*

**Person Specification**
The Candidate should have a relevant degree and/or extensive experience of working with IT systems, team work and supporting user staff to agreed standards; confident and clear written and oral communication for advising and supporting staff in the use of IT systems; pro-active learning of technical systems and database applications, enthusiastic about sharing skills, open to learning and attention to detail; good planning and organizational skills; ability to manage, monitor and maintain small IT projects; a strong commitment to the work and values of VSO and equal opportunity policies.

*This post is initially offered on a one-year contract, with possibility to renew.*

Closing date: **6 April 2004**
Interview Date : **20 April 2004**
Preference Starting date: **1 June 2004**

**Please submit your letter of intent and your comprehensive resume to VSO Bahaginan Director at bahaginan@qinet.net.** ***Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.***
**Visit www.vso.org.uk for more information about VSO.**

---

## TRACE COMPUTER & BUSINESS COLLEGE

**IMMEDIATE HIRING FOR:**
**(6) ACCOUNTANTS (CPA)**
**(10) ACCOUNTING CLERK**
**MARKETING EXECUTIVES**
**MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES**
**HUMAN RESOURCE EXECUTIVES**
**CLAIMS PERSONNEL** – (Male only, With experience in warehousing/logistics.)

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Graduates of Business Administration, BS/BA Industrial Psychology, BS Accountancy and any 4-year business related course. Male or Female. Not more than 30 years old. Has an excellent oral & written communication skills. With pleasing personality. Knowledgeable in MS Office Application. Preferable with 1-2 years work experience.

Interested applicants may bring their resumé, TOR and other documents which may support their application to:

**The Personnel Office**
**East Cloverleaf cor. P. Victor St.,**
**Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City**
**Tel. 8824878 / 8820941**

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## comglasco

*COMGLASCO AGUILA GLASS CORPORATION*

A leading distribution and retailing company with branches nationwide is looking for

### SALES & PROJECT MANAGER – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

- With previous experience in Sales and Project Management in a large construction company.
- Sales experiences required includes liaising with architects, contractors, corporate executives and building administrators.
- Project management experiences required includes managing a construction project from start to end covering procurement, government regulations and project monitoring.

*Competitive compensation package awaits the successful candidate.*

*Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume to :*

*COMGLASCO AGUILA GLASS CORPORATION*
*5/F Prudential Bank Bldg. 111 Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi St.,*
*Legaspi Village, Makati City or email to hrconfi@comglasco.com*

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## PHARMACIST

- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of B.S. Pharmacy
- Must be licensed
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

## ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of Accountancy / any business related course
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

## MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Male / Female / not more than 30 yrs. old
- Graduate of 4 year course preferably medical allied course
- Hardworking, self driven, good moral character

Please fax your resumé to 416-09-68

Or send to #126 G. Roxas St., SFDM
Brgy. Manresa, Q.C.

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## A PROGRESSIVE COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNELS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

### PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR

- With Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or its related course
- With 2-4 years experience in recruitment, job appraisal, performance evaluation
- Capable of relating to individuals of all levels
- Willing to be assigned in Cavite

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female college graduate between 22 to 30 years old
- With excellent written and oral communication skills (able to do good correspondence)
- Computer literate (EXCEL, WORD, E-mail applications)
- Highly organized

### ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, Accounting graduate, 21 years old and above
- With 6 months experience in accounting works
- Proficient in MS EXCEL and MS Word
- Cavite Residence Preferred

### COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

- Male or Female, BS Math or Computer Science Graduate
- With 2 to 3 years experience in programming and System Analysis
- Should have background in Smart Card Business and Terminals
- Must be proficient in C++ and Java, resourceful, fast learner and with good communication skills
- Manila Office Based

### IE HEAD

- Female IE Grads with 3 to 5 years experience in time and motion studies, production line balancing
- Knows the function of cutting, sewing, finishing, quality control and merchandise costing
- To be assigned in SBFZ, Olongapo City

### QUALITY CONTROL HEAD

- College Graduate if industrial Management Engineering, 35 years old & below
- At least 3 years experience in handling woven items
- Actual knowledge of Sewing Operations and Technicalities
- Applicants are to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

### INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

- M/F IE Grads preferably of Adamson, Mapua
- Preferably with 1 year experience in garments manufacturing but fresh grads with good scholastic records can also apply
- Applicants are to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

Interested applicants may send their resumé,
transcript of records & recent ID pictures to:
c/o Box No. KA-016-04CA
Philippine Daily Inquirer, 6/F, Trinity Bldg.
No. 636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

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## A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

### Bakery Product Development Technician

- Male or Female, age 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry or Chem. Eng'g.
- With Baker's Skills Training Course Certificate
- Minimum 3 years experience in a bakery operation
- Handled product development of biscuits, breads, cakes, cookies, pastries, etc.
- Willing to be assigned abroad

### Marketing Assistant

- Male or Female, age 22 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Must posses creativity and a pleasing personality
- With good oral and written communication skills

### Sales Assistant

- Male, age 22 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Excellent communication skills, aggressive, can relate well with all types of people.

### Accountant

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant, with or without experience
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Good moral character

### Telephone Operator / Receptionist

- Female, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills.

*Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:*
*Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:*
***HRD Manager, 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300***
***or E-mail to hrdmanager2004@yahoo.com*** *(with attached ID photo)*
*Please indicate the position you are applying for.*

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- Impressive commercial and corporate design portfolio
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- Additional design software knowledge is an advantage
- Preferably MAC oriented

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- College graduate
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Interested applicants may submit their concise resume with recent photo to:

**Xpress Media Philippines, Inc**
5/F The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or email cristina_cueva@xpress.com.sg

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## WANTED IMMEDIATELY

### (5) SERVICE TECHNICIANS (For General Pest Control)

- Male
- Single
- Physically fit
- High School Graduate / College Level is an advantage
- Preferably with VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
- With good P.R.
- Not more than 24 years old
- Willing to work on day and night shift
- Possess good moral character
- Experience not necessary
- 2 Technicians preferably residing at Dasmariñas, Cavite or near-by area
- 3 Technicians must be residing in Metro Manila area

Interested applicants may apply in person at NO KA OI (Phils. ) Int'l Inc. Unit 708 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City and look for MS. BENI ARCILLAS. Interview will be on Monday, 22 March 2004. Please bring complete requirements. Previous applicants need not apply

# TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech is the leading global provider of customer relationship management solutions and services for companies worldwide. It has more than 25,000 employees in over 60 customer management centers in key locations globally. TeleTech has been in the Philippines since 2001 mainly serving leading North American companies. With its growing base of clients in North America, TeleTech Philippines is now actively recruiting for the following positions:

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Extensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

## TEAM LEADERS

- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

## QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR

- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

## QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS

- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

## WORKFORCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS

- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

## Sr. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, strong attention to detail
- Sense of urgency is a must
- Minimum 5 years Account management and Client relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader

## TRAINER - AMERICAN ACCENT & CULTURE

- Previous Accent Neutralization Training experience essential
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results-focused and a desire to help others succeed

## TRAINERS

- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

## TRAINING COORDINATOR

- Organized, responsible and able to coordinate training schedules and facilities
- Ability to handle multible tasks simultaneously
- General administration experience

## HR COORDINATOR

- minimum 2 years experience in HR management particularly providing administrative support in Performance Management, Benefits Admin, Records Management and Employees Relations
- Able to maintain strictest confidentiality; has exceptional organizational and time management skills
- Computer literate

## WORKFORCE PLANNING MANAGER

- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment.· TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

## PAYROLL SPECIALIST

- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions Focused.
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

## CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self driven, strong attention to detail
- Minimum 1 year Client Relationship experience
- Sense of Urgency is a must

## FINANCE MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant; B/A or B/S degree in Accounting or Finance or equivalent business related experience.
- With extensive experience in Financial Accounting, Reporting and Control, Budget and Forecast preparation; Financial Statement Analysis; Financial Statement Ration Analysis, preferable gained from a multinational company
- Knowledge of Oracle Financials accounting system; Corporate Tax laws and in handling tax matters.
- Highly analytical, ability to maintain stability and deliver under pressure, results oriented and decisive.
- Has expressive and receptive communication skills.
- Must be able to work with all levels of management and interact effectively with all employees. Able to interact with vendors and clients on a regular basis and represent Teletech professionally at all times.

## PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY

*We offer attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience. Kindly indicate in the envelope the position you are applying for and send your application to:*

MS. VELDA SAULOG - Recruiting Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

Or thru the following e-mail addresses:

1. Payroll Specialist and HR Coordinator - hrjobs_ph@teletech.com
2. Operations Manager and Team Leader - OPSjobs_ph@teletech.com
3. Trainers and Training Coordinator - trainerjobs_ph@teletech.com
4. Quality Assurance Specialists and Supervisor - QA_jobs_ph@teletech.com
5. Workforce Planning Manager & Specialists - OSCjobs_ph@teletech.com
6. Sr / Client Relationship Manager - CRMjobs_ph@teletech.com
7. Finance Manager - financemanager_ph@teletech.com

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We are one of the Leading ***Exclusive Distributor*** of Medical Equipment and Supplies. We are inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

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M/F, college graduate, w/ sales experience in sales/promotion of medical supplies/equipment.

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M/F, college graduate, diligent, aggressive, creative, preferably with medical sales experience.

Interested applicants may apply in person at
#68 Pres. Osmeña, LifeHomes, Rosario, Pasig City
For interview call LENY 656-5898 * 0917-899-4224
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## SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male or Female, at least 5 years hands-on sales experience in HHG/PE & Logistics.
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The President
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c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
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cor Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City

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**LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU – MANILA**

**NEEDS**

## A TRANSLATOR

(Arabic to English / English to Arabic)

Qualifications:

- Male
- College graduate
- Proficient in oral and written (English/Arabic) language
- Work experience of not less than 5 years

Submit your resumé at 1644 Dasmariñas Avenue corner Mabolo St., Dasmariñas Village, Makati City from Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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## (2) ACCOUNTANT
## (2) AUDITOR

- M/F 21-35 YRS. OLD
- BSA GRAD. (PREF. CPA)
- COMPUTER LITERATE

Apply at: GRIST CORP. #16 General Ave.
GSIS Village, Project 7, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 453-0879 / 453-2653
visit: www.gristohem.com

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## MIS Staff

○ Graduate of 1 yr. computer course
○ knowledge in basic trouble-shooting
○ experience both in hardware and software installation, any windows platform
○ knowledge in network implementation and NT4/WIN 2000
○ knowledge in Seagate Crystal report (optional)
○ experience in retail business

## Freelance Graphic Artist

**(on per project basis)**

○ Experienced graphic artists preferably from advertising
○ willing to work on per project basis
○ no need to report for duty
○ preferably have on computer and graphic software

Interested applicants may submit their resume with picture to

K. Plaza Bldg.,
#18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City

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## P30,000 / MONTH

If you are:

- M/F, 21-52 years old
- College Graduate
- Willing to undergo trainings

Call: 892-2818/817-8262 for interview schedules

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Male/Female, Single/Married, College graduate of any course, w/ or w/o experience. Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Monday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, March 22 to 27, 2004

APPLY AT:
Suite 808, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)
Note: Qualified applicants will start immediately.
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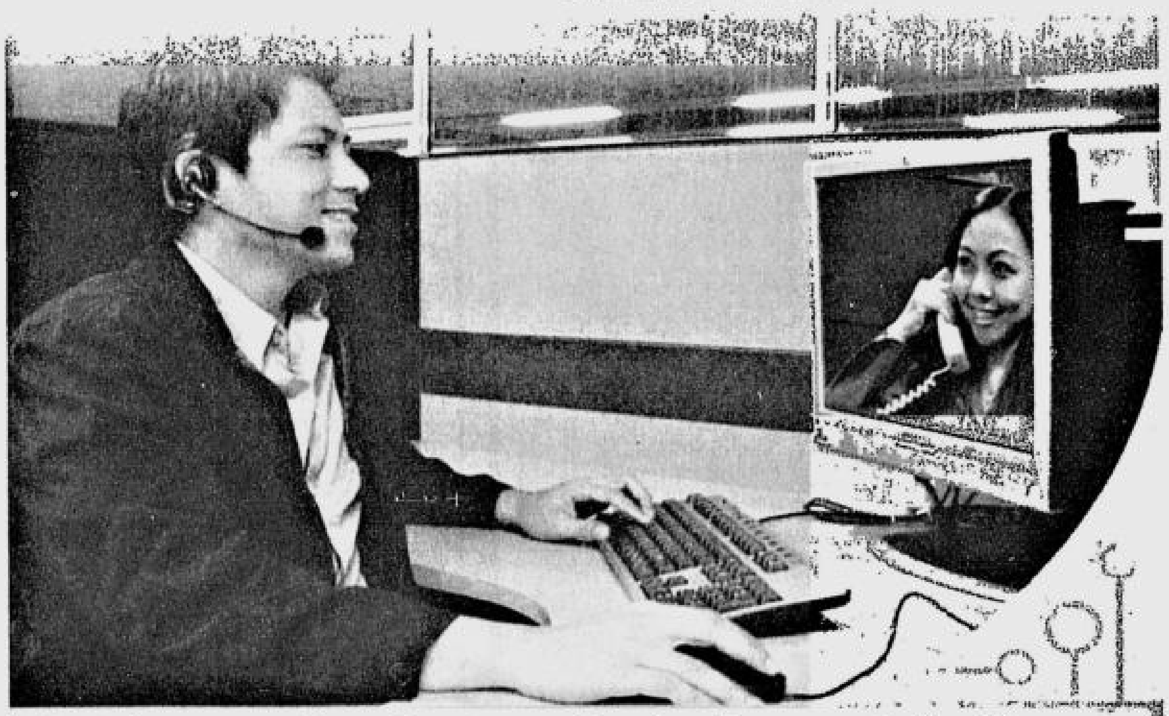
## Your parents told you off for spending too much time on the phone. We'll Pay you for it!

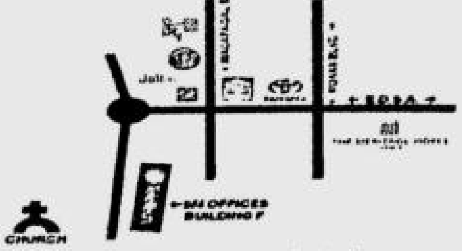


## To be part of our Customer Service Representative Team call us at 552-9751 up to 55 Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm

You may also send us your resume at OPSjobs_ph@teletech.com

TeleTech, the world leader in the provision of call center solutions is currently undergoing an exciting period of growth in our offices within the Philippines. We're currently on the lookout for new talent to work in our world class call centers. If you are an individual who has:

- Strong command of the English Language
- Customer Service Focused
- Solutions Oriented
- PC Knowledgeable
- Excellent reasoning ability
- Can interpret technical instructions
- Able to deal with concrete variables



call us now!! Dealing with callers from all over the United States you will use your technical support skills to assist customers with their queries. If you are keen to progress your career with a global company, have these skills and are available to work night shift, then give us a call!!

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# The father's favorite?

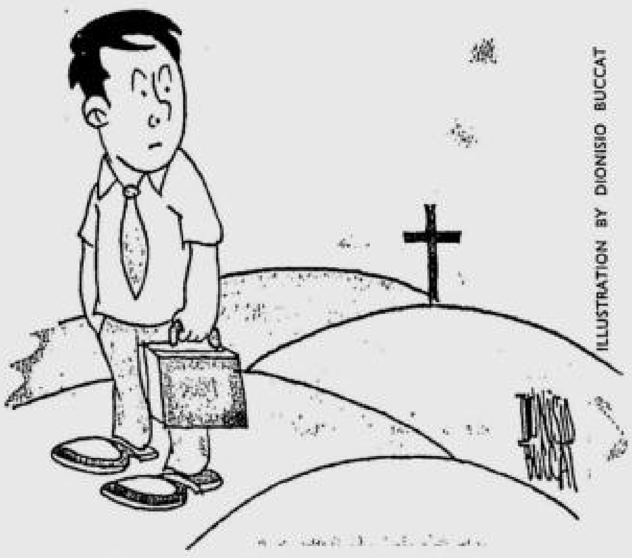
**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

THE SITUATION in today's gospel may find its parallel in a family-run business where siblings are themselves coworkers. The father in such a situation may be accused of favoritism by the industrious son who, in turn, may be filled with self-pity, envy, anger and hatred at seeing his younger and profligate brother getting special treatment upon his return. A poor management of this state of affairs almost always leads to split ups in the family business: the child who feels betrayed breaks away and puts up his or her own business to compete with the father's.

We find similar situations in our offices and workplaces where bosses play favorites, and certain indolent workers get more perks and get promoted faster than the obviously efficient ones. It's not fair, but it does happen.

If you are not the favored one in this case, how do you deal with your feelings? Like the brother in the gospel story who cannot appreciate their father's viewpoint, you may seethe with jealousy and scream "Unfair!" but will that improve things? Being in his position could be a grave test of your maturity, and to overcome it by persevering in faith may not be the easiest thing to do, but it certainly is most worthwhile to remember that work is not just you and your coworkers—it is you and your coworkers and God. Thus, it is best to continue doing what is right even when we feel we've been wronged, trusting that the Father's compassion and mercy are working for all of His children, whether we are aware of it or not. We will never regret sticking to the right path, keeping in mind that while the boss may sometimes be unfair, the all-knowing Father will always be just. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



**Gospel. Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32**

*So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.*

# To 'touch base'

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD**

JUST recently, a high school classmate of mine who chanced upon this column sent me a brief e-mail. He wrote that he had just retired from his job and having seen my e-mail address here, had wanted to "touch base" with me. Later, on the phone, I realized that for my friend, to "touch base" meant to relive the happy moments we had in our high school years. I sensed that he had gone a long way in life, worked so hard, and had been through a lot of pain and sufferings, and like the younger son in today's gospel, longed to go "back to his father"—taste again the experience of God we had in our years in school.

This incident made me reflect that at times, work—or the way we work—can easily take us far away from God. Too much work that demands all our time and attention leaves little or no room for the Lord in our hearts and thoughts. The demands of work can drain completely our energies and strength, leaving us empty despite our success, and thirsty for something or someone else to fill us up.

The worker who believes in Jesus will realize that the deep longings of man's heart find complete satisfaction only in "touching base" with God. Jesus clearly shows in the parable that God is a compassionate Father who eagerly waits for us and "sees" us even while we are "still a long way off" too engrossed in our work which we have almost made our god—and that He would "run to us and embrace and kiss us" when we make a move to return to Him. Working with the abiding thought of God's ever-loving presence will make the workplace and every place a home where the worker will always yearn to stay. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

# 'I am desperate for a job'

**By Tita Datu Puangco**

## Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I WROTE this letter because I am hoping you could give me some advice. I have been working for almost eight years, the last four years with one of the largest financial services company in the country in a supervisory position. I started looking for a job because I felt that there was no promotion in sight no matter how hard I worked. But I was not really under pressure since I still have a job I can fall back on.

That is until last December when another financial services company provided me with an offer I cannot refuse. They doubled my salary and at the same time gave me the managerial position that I have long aspired for. So, I did not have any second thoughts and accepted the job.

During my interview, the executives boasted a state of the art of technology, a young and vibrant workforce, and a highly favorable working environment. But when I started in January I found out that they have a young workforce because they retired employees who have been with the company for ten years or more. There was no proper turnover of responsibilities and documents.

In addition, the company was having a hard time migrating to a new computer system and everything is in chaos. All these' have a major impact on my job because I am involved with systems analysis. But I took it in stride knowing that it is a chance for me to make a mark in my new company.

However, I did not realize that the worse was yet to come. My boss, the department head, saw me as a threat to his position and he mentions this almost on a daily basis. His reason was management did not inform him about their plan to hire a manager in his department. He believes that I am an understudy and it would only be a matter of time before I replace him. He never stopped finding faults in whatever I do. He gave me all his workload except the final approval of reports so that most of his time was spent drinking coffee, smoking, and reading the newspaper. His table and cabinets are empty because he dumped all the paperwork to me. I tried to be patient and let all his criticisms pass. When management commended a report that I prepared, he took all the credit. Despite this he never stopped telling me that I am not capable of anything. I did not complain. But after a month, my breaking point was breached. He provoked me to an argument by calling me a liar, lazy and irresponsible. That was it! I walked out because I couldn't take anymore of his abuses. The next day, I resigned.

Thus, I ended up unemployed and so depressed. My friends said that I should not have left so abruptly and instead wait till I find another job. But I believe that what I did was right because when I resigned I felt relieved. The problem is I can't find a new job right now and it has almost been a month.

I had an interview a week ago with the company that owns one of the biggest mall chains and retail stores in the country. The HR person grilled me with questions like: Do you have a tattoo? Am I in a relationship right now? Personally, I don't think the

IAM/N6

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- With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
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- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to go on field and have flexible working hours

OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS
- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent **Tagalog-English (Taglish)** conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- With salary of P91,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must be a BS Accounting graduate or at least one year experience in the same field
- 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge; can type up to 40 words per minute; knowledge in Quicken or QuickBooks an advantage
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy

PLS. APPLY PERSONALLY AT
Global 9, Inc. Lapanday center
2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
via MRT, take Magallanes/Mantrade Station
or SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO:
marcia@nytelecon.com
**or mail at**
P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village,
**Makati City**

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Medecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, accredited by the Department of Health (DOH), whose objective is to bring medical aid to population in crisis, is now in need of staff for the Street Children Project in Manila:

**One (1) Registered Nurse**

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Experience in:
  - Implementation of street-based and/or community-based health strategies with strong background on reproductive health and substance abuse
  - Providing medical consultation and management, health education and counseling
  - Providing medical consultation and management, health education and counseling
  - Working with children and adolescents
  - Collaborating with government hospitals and health centers for medical referral and networking
- Knowledge in participatory strategies
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relation skills
- Hardworking and commited to the cause of protecting children's rights
- Research experience, an advantage
- Can work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative
- Exposure to non-governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting
- Computer skills (MS Office), especially word and excel

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents must be mailed and addressed to:

MS. MILENA OSORIO
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
Email: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph
(Only short listed candidates will be notified)
Deadline for Submission: April 2, 2004

**CARE - Philippines**, a non-government humanitarian organization fighting poverty, is searching for qualified candidates for:

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

S/he shall be responsible for program and strategy development. The work primarily includes strategic planning, conducting social analyses, relating with consultants and donors; designing and preparing project proposals; participating in project reporting, monitoring and evaluation; best practices documentation; and technical backstopping.

Applicants should have at least a bachelor's degree and 5 years relevant experience in social development, preferably in the areas of natural resource management and/or disaster management. S/he must possess excellent analytical skills, the appropriate values/skills necessary in social development work, good communication and interpersonal skills, superior written English and be computer literate. Email recruitment@care.org.ph for full details of the job description, qualifications and application process. The salary for this item will range from P30,000 to P35,000. Submit resumé by April 2, 2004 to: The Country Director, CARE Philippines, 55 Don Benito Hernandez St., Pasay City 1300, Tel. No. 5512615 or to igol@care.org.ph.

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*21st Century Vitamins* urgently needs a:

**PHARMACIST**
- Graduate of B.S. Pharmacy, and license holder
- Female, 24-27 years old, Single
- Must have knowledge in BFAD rulings
- Will be responsible for product registrations and all transactions re: BFAD
- Proficiency in MS Word/MS Excel is required
- Should have good communication skills
- Must be hardworking, aggressive, and motivated

**Please apply in person with your resumé, 2x2 photo, and Transcript of Records not later than March 29, 2004 at Rm. 204, Grace Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. You may call tel. nos. 7274403/7269119. Look for Tina.**

WANTED
**INTERIOR DESIGNER**
Male or Female
Must be Interior Design or Architecture Graduate w/ min. of 5 years experience working with known interior design office and proficient in manual perspective using Yoken Pen, Pencil, Airbrush, Water Pastel Color, w/ knowledge in Photoshop or similar. Salary Range: P33,000 min up to 36,000/month

Send all your e-mail direct to employers office at this address: **almaskan@al-maskan.com**
Contact person: **Cecilio M. Cleto**
Telephone No 044-7909471

**WANTED**
**SECURITY OFFICERS**
Must be college graduate, 25 to 45 years old
Licensed by the PNP-SAGSD
*Please send application, resumé w/ 2x2 recent photo to:*
The VP for Administration
Security & Safety Corp. of the Philippines
75 F. Manalo Street, Cubao, Quezon City 1111
Tel. No. 705 1654'55

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Theme: 'Overseas Filipinos Economic Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship'
April 16-18, 2004
Hall 3, SM Megatrade, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
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- 3-day entrepreneurship seminar for OFWs and their families
- Business matching activities and meetings
- Entrepreneurship presentations of participating companies
- Social and fellowship night of OFWs
- City tours for OFWs and their families

EXHIBIT PROFILE
- Remittance and Financial Services
- Travel Agencies, Transportation, Tour Packages
- Micro Financing and Leasing
- Insurance Companies
- Franchising Business
- Banks and Credit Card Companies
- Manpower Services (Land/Sea-based)
- Real Estate and Properties
- Telecommunication Companies
- Freight Forwarders and Shipping Companies
- Health Care and Medical Services/Companies
- Computer Training Institutes/Centers
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Print and Online Media
- Fresh and Processed Food Products
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Products

SEMINAR TOPICS
- Kalayaan sa Kakapusan
- Pagnenegosyo 101/Entrepreneurship Basic
- Building Successful Business Plans
- Franchising for First-Time Entrepreneurs
- Franchise Business Presentations
- Entrepreneurship Case Studies
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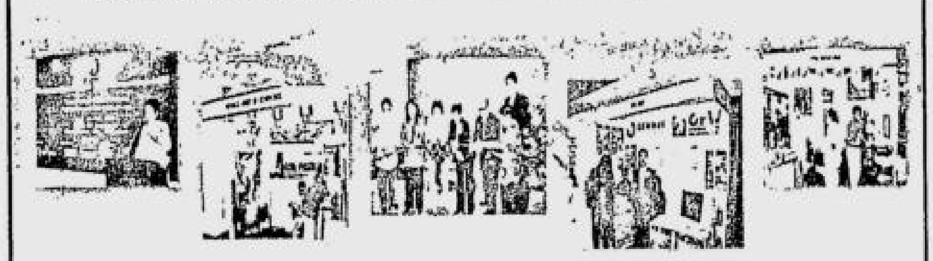

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Applications, including a cover letter, Curriculum Vitaé with recent 2x2 picture, samples of journalistic or research work, and a copy of the original Transcript of Records, should be sent to programofficer@cald.org, no later than 26 March 2004.

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A medium size manufacturing company has a job opening for

**One (1) Personnel Assistant**

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- Male or female not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or Business Administration
- 2 to 3 years experience in the field of HR and familiar with recruitment, computation of salaries and all government mandated benefits such as SSS, Pag-ibig etc.
- Good command of English
- Pleasing personality and ability to work under pressure

Interested candidates are requested to either send their resumes personally to, Pacific Glass Corporation at Sheridan St., Mandaluyong City or send via email to: aindv@yahoo.com

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**SAKAE SUSHI PHIL.**
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**San Juan M.M. is in need:**

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- Knowledge on Japanese cuisines

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- Pleasing personality, fast in mobility
- Good penmanship and fluent in English
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The right candidate is likely to be in his or her 30's, a CA/CPA with a degree in finance or accounting and currently working with an international accounting firm and, preferably, have had exposure to technical accounting matters. The successful candidate may be required to re-locate.

Candidates should e-mail their 2 page CV to careers@ambaresearch.com. Please include the Ref No. and CA/CPA qualification in the title of the e-mail.

***Only successful applicants will be notified***

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# How do you add value?

**DEAR WW: My boss is always telling us he wants us to "add value" to the company. It makes me feel like I'm hamburger relish instead of a person. I'm already working my butt off. What more does he want?**

**Already Valuable**

WORKING WOUNDED

*Bob Rosner*

A while back my wife had trouble accessing her Hotmail account. She wasn't alone. It turns out that Microsoft had failed to pay a $35 Internet fee and many of its 52 million users couldn't get their mail. Michael Chaney, a Tennessee-based programmer, caught the error and loaned one of the world's most valuable corporations $35 on his personal MasterCard.

Talk about adding value! Without Chaney's help Hotmail could have been down for days! Now, most of us can't exercise that kind of leverage, but if you look just outside the normal confines of your job, you may find an area where you can make an unexpected contribution. The strategies below will give you ideas. For more, check out Bruce Tulgan's book, "Work This Way" (Hyperion, 1998).

Can you find problems that aren't being addressed? There's a secret weapon for identifying problems early and often—customers and vendors.

Their dissatisfactions, especially their "pebbles in the shoe," can provide fodder for new ideas. Ask them a lot of questions and really listen to what they have to say. Also talk to people who aren't currently your customers to find out about their pebbles.

Can you solve a problem others haven't? Every organization has its big problems—the ones you'd have to be crazy to volunteer for. But there can be gold in what everyone else considers to be garbage. I once volunteered to develop a smoking policy for a hospital when the health promotion staff wouldn't touch it. It solved a touchy problem for the hospital and was one of the most satisfying projects of my career.

Can you improve an existing product or service? Peter Drucker once said, "He the gods want to destroy they send 40 years of success." Organizations are especially vulnerable to that kind of complacency. Don't ever take your existing products or services for granted. Always be on the lookout for ways to improve them.

Can you deliver an existing product or service faster? Remember when people gave you a week to get something to them? Now that we've got overnight delivery, faxes and e-mail, you're lucky if they give you ' til the top of the hour. Anything you can do to speed up your (or your company's) operation will be valued.

Can you invent a new product, service or method? Most of us have tunnel vision. We get so used to the way things ARE that we don't see how they COULD be. Or we rant about how irritating or unproductive things are but we don't devise ways to improve them. Next time you find yourself dissing some aspect of your company, invent a way to improve it.

If Michael Chaney can add value to a company that he doesn't even work for, chances are that you can do it for yours.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll:

Honesty check: which statement best describes your contribution at work?

—I subtract value, 2.6%

—I show up, 21.1

—I add value, 76.1% How do you handle references in a job search?

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

We get so used to the way things ARE that we don't see how they COULD be.

## Fashion at work

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

THIS "pulse" check is conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners for last month's survey are: **Erik Makiramdam and Chat Limjoco.** Please get your gifts from Ateneo CORD at tel. no.426-6065.

1. Which of the following do you have in your office? (check all that applies)
   a. Uniform
   b. Dress code
   c. Clothing allowance
   d. None of the above

2. What do males typically wear in your place of work? (check all that applies)
   a. Suits
   b. Slacks and long sleeved polo and tie
   c. Slacks and short sleeved polo
   d. Jeans and casual shirts (t-shirt, sport shirts)
   e. Barong
   f. Others (pls. specify)

3. What do females typically wear in your place of work? (check all that applies)
   a. Suits
   b. Skirts and blouse
   c. Pants and blouse
   d. Dresses
   e. Jeans and casual tops
   f. Others (pls. specify)

4. What footwear do people in your place of work normally wear? (check all that applies)
   a. Closed leather shoes
   b. Sandals/open toed shoes
   c. Rubber shoes
   d. Slippers
   e. Loafers/casual shoes
   f. Boots

5. Which of the following is regulated in your place of work? (check all that applies)
   a. Haircut/styles
   b. Make-up
   c. Nail length/color

Name: ____________________
Gender: ________ CivilStatus: ____________________
Nature of Job: ____________________
Company Name: ____________________
Industry: ____________________
Tel/Mobile/Email: ____________________

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development
(Ateneo CORD)2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Fax No. (632) 426-6065 Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph

Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2.(answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or email address.

# Globally experienced consultant helps country manage human capital

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

IMAGINE a large ship about to set off to sea. A travel plan has been mapped out by the captain to reach the desired destination. But what if the members of the crew have different ideas? What if the engineer is set on a different plan? What if the chief mate wants to go another way? Chances are, they will never get to their planned destination.

### Common goal

"The company is the same. The company should be people who work together for a common goal," claims Dr. Wolfgang Lux, 'captain' and general manager for Asia Pacific of the American Management Association (AMA). Since the 1920s, businesses in America have relied on AMA to provide them with the most effective training and business tools to develop their human capital and grow their investments. Last year, through the steering of Dr. Lux, AMA docked on Philippine shores.

AMA is a global "not-for-profit" membership-based association that provides management development and educational services for individuals, companies and government agencies. It boasts of servicing 486 companies out of the Fortune 500 companies. Through seminars, trainings, conferences and consultancies, AMA teaches the latest business technology and knowhow.

Coming from a global educational background and a wide range of management experience, Lux is in the country to share his wealth of knowledge in the management field. He hopes to better understand how Filipino companies work and as a result help them improve their human resource management.

It is a given fact that human capital is the greatest asset any organization can ever have. Human resource management and development is therefore key in every business venture. "That's where AMA helps. We provide skills training and leadership training. We go to companies to build teams, we help you to work better together as teams," explains Lux.

### Global training

Lux has no formal training in the field of human resources. But confidently he rebuts, "And that's very good." Lux has worked and studied in three different continents. He has experienced human resource management in different environments in various cultures and varied landscapes.

European by birth, he has lived for more than two decades in Europe. Fifteen years in Asia and six years in the United States, he has harvested a global understanding of how human resources work. He is also an experienced consultant in the area of sales, marketing, leadership and creativity.

Lux earned his bachelor's degree in Communication and Social Science with Highest Honors at Drexel University in the United States. He spent several years in China to learn the Chinese language, culture and business. At Tokyo, he received a Master's degree in Comparative Culture. Lux then earned his doctorate degree in Business Administration in Moscow.

### Knowledge of business

His quest to understand different cultures and apply this learning to businesses brought him from the Far East, Germany, Belgium and then to Japan. In 2001, Lux took the position of AMA's general manager for Asia Pacific. Presently, he is responsible for helping companies grow their businesses through effective people management in China, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Australia, Thailand, Korea and of course, the Philippines.

Through his multicultural dealings, he has recognized one prevalent fact.

"The problem with most HR specialists is they have no idea about business," claims Lux. According to him, human resource management is a function that supports business. HR's function goes beyond employment issues and stretches towards being a consultant to the different parts of the organization.

### Understanding issues

Lux uses sales as an example. To effectively train sales people, HR must go out in the field and immerse themselves in the area of sales. "How can I, as an HR person, train sales people if I have never done sales in my life?" queries Lux. He stresses that the trainer should go out and understand the business. "Understand the issues and problems they (sales) face. From there, I can then develop a program that really helps."

"In my opinion, the head of HR should report to the president directly. A company has knowledge. But in the end, it is the people. And HR is in charge of people. So isn't HR the most important part of the organization?" Human resource management professionals, playing a vital role in the organization, could therefore be more effective if they had a deeper knowledge of the business.

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LUX

From organization-wide to worldwide, Lux shares his thoughts on HR management. Lux believes that a growing company must have a presence in the major markets around the world. But how does a manager develop skills and measures that will work across the borders? How does one manage teams of different backgrounds and cultures? This is where effective training and management comes into play explains Lux. For him, a company's strength greatly lies on its ability for global training.

Because of human resource management's critical role in the organization, HR training should cover a large spectrum, according to Lux. Aside from proficiency in HR management, recruitment and performance management, HR people should also be trained in the full management and leadership spectrum. Sales management, marketing, product management, manufacturing management and all the other functional areas should also be learned by HR. Add to that are the different competency skills like interpersonal skills, communication skills and emotional intelligence.

Truly, developing HR professionals and human capital are challenges to this globally experienced consultant.

# 'I am desperate ...

From page N4

**questions are relevant to the position I am applying for. There is also this other company, which belongs to the financial services industry, but they think I am overqualified for the vacant position.**

**What can I do to improve my chances of getting a new job? I know that it is already too late but do you think my friends were right? What about asking my old employer (the one I worked with for four years) to take me back? All I want right now is to have another job even if it is not a managerial position. Although my family is not depending on me financially, I still want to be employed again as soon as possible because the longer that I stay unemployed, the more I lose my competitiveness. By the way, I completed my MBA last year.**

**Desperate Job Hunter**

Thank you for your letter. The first thing I want to tell you is, not to panic. You have good credentials and an MBA degree. Feel confident that the right job will come along. You just have to find it. I remember the game we use to play called treasure hunt. Finding a good job is similar. You have to employ the right techniques to find the right job, by leaving no promising stone unturned. When you panic you cannot think straight. You can become unreasonably stressed.

Begin by processing your recent harrowing experience getting into the right job in the wrong company with the wrong boss. Ask yourself. What lessons did I learn from the experience? What did I discover about my self, especially about my emotional intelligence? What life lessons did I gain? Afterwards, let go of the trauma and bitterness. Put the experience as part of your past.

Then, start to live in the present moment. Imagine that you are taking a sabbatical or longer than a usual vacation. This vacation you are devoting to finding the best job you can find. You will not say yes to the first job that comes your way. You will come up with decision criteria for the "job of your dreams." You want to be in a managerial position. You want a certain salary level. You want to work in an office with a good environment. Then identify your musts and wants. Guided by your decision criteria, prepare your resume that will highlight the projects you have undertaken and your capabilities.

After that, make a listing of companies you want to get into. Start making calls to their Human Resource department or ask friends if they have acquaintances that are in these companies. Be prepared to live each day, calling, setting appointments, dropping-off your resume. Be persistent. Prepare yourself to be interviewed and practice answering the tricky questions that may come your way. Don't be stressed but keep a sense of urgency. Also, don't forget to pray and listen to the "voice within" that would guide your search.

Do send your resume to us and I can find out if the companies we service would have a need for a person with your skill level and capability. As to the question whether to knock at the doors of your former employer, you alone can give the answer. Make a list of what you will gain and what you will lose by returning. Ask yourself what you value at this point in your life and your career. Wishing you only the best!

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ [illegible])

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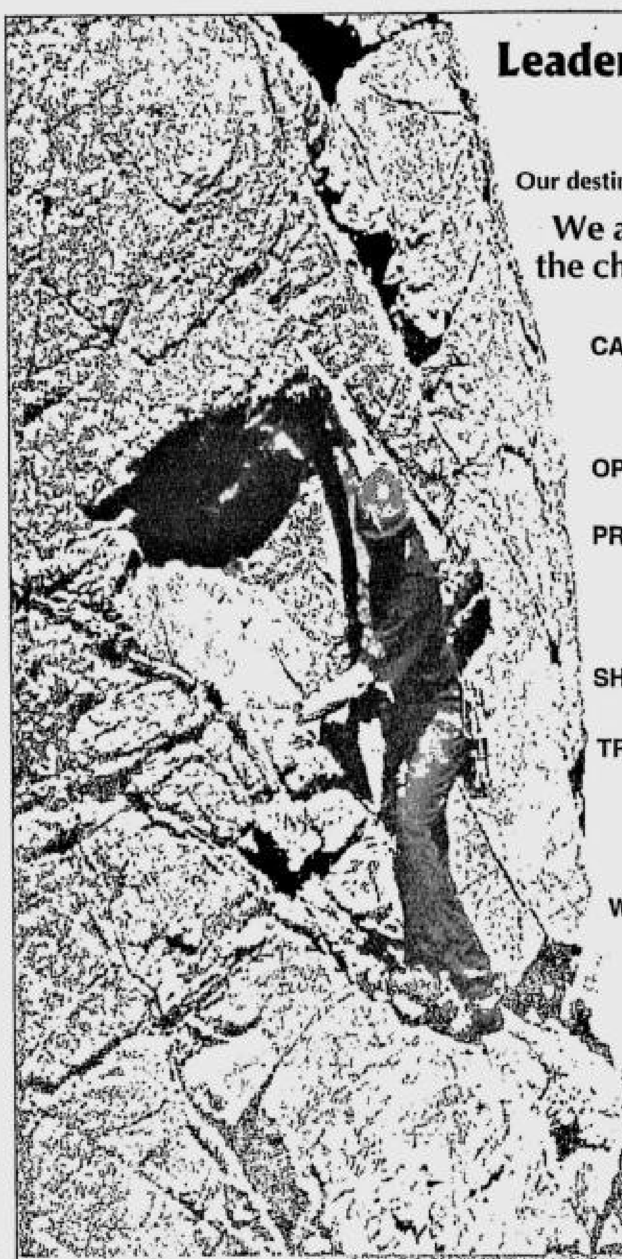

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**Makati City**

**Email: careers@vxiusa.com.ph**
**Make sure to indicate your desired position.**

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- With pleasing personality

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

# Do you want to work in a call center?

**By Ina Bacud and Gina Hechanova**

SINCE the mid-1990s, call centers have provided the most dynamic area of growth in international white-collar employment. Call center outsourcing is now growing at an annual rate of more than 20 percent in Asia Pacific. As e-commerce spreads, call center companies will increase.

### Fastest growing sector

In the Philippines, call centers are the fastest growing industry. Perhaps our English language skills, service orientation, and affinity for things American are the reasons for this phenomenon. In light of these, People at Work wanted to find out how the general population perceives call center work.

Of the 44 respondents, majority (73 percent) are female and single (84 percent). Of these, 32 percent are currently working in call centers. 16 percent used to work in the industry and 36 percent have signified intent to join. Only 16 percent reveal their non-inclination toward this line of work.

We asked respondents how they would describe call center work. Career opportunities, high starting salaries, the work environment, challenging work, and availability of job openings were the most salient features that make call center work attractive. Other attractions,cited weare its growth, being a global business, training, and incentive programs.

### Perceptions

Despite the attraction, more than half also viewed call center work as a short-term stint. Only 28 percent saw call center work as a long-term career option and a handful indicated that it was not an option at all.

Why is there a perception that call center jobs are transitory rather than long-term? It's not because there are no career prospects for call center work. In fact, 59 percent disagreed that being a customer service representative is a dead-end job. One explanation is that a third of respondents perceived call center work as stressful. Three of four respondents also agreed that call center people are generally young. There were also mixed opinions about whether or not people held call center work in high regard.

Although the results of the survey represent a very limited sample when compared to the general population, they provide some points for reflection for both job seekers and call centers.

### Challenging option

With the current level of unemployment, it is inevitable that new graduates will consider call center work. Hopefully, this study provides a realistic preview of call center work. Despite the attractive compensation and training, call center work can be very challenging. The work hours can be long and irregular. Perhaps the biggest challenge is the stress of constantly dealing with complaints or customer rejections. The emotional labor required in call center work is certainly not for the faint of heart.

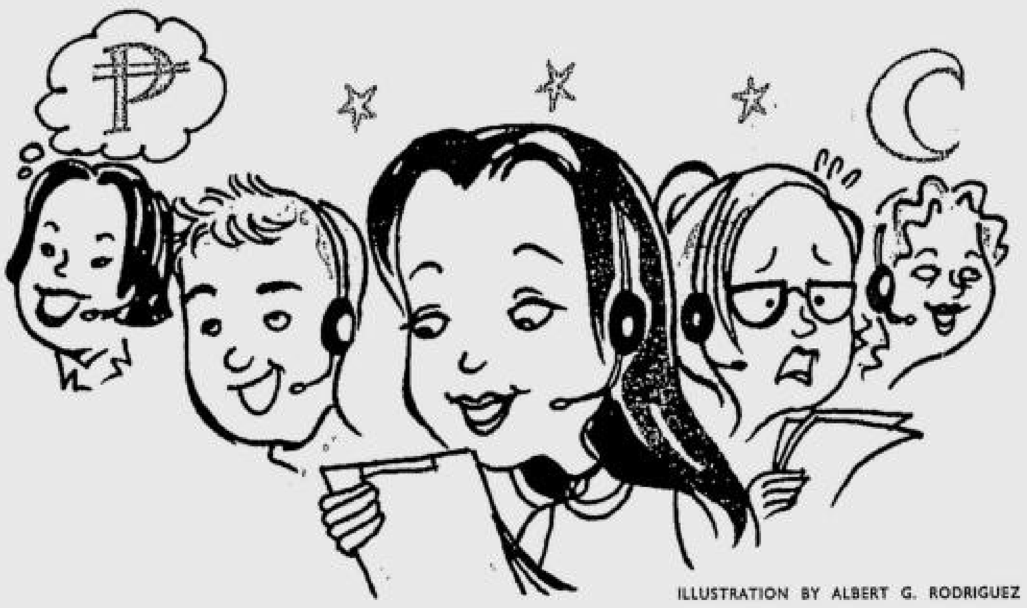


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

There are many challenges that call centers face. With increasing competition and the stressful nature of the job, it is not surprising that employee turnover is an issue for call centers. But how can call centers keep their talent if people see call center work as a mere steppingstone? Some call centers have accepted this reality, having put in place well-oiled systems for hiring and training. Others ensure talent retention through attractive compensation and benefits. Still others install career development systems to motivate their employees to stay. That call center work is perceived to be only for the young is an interesting finding. However, as the industry matures in the country, this image may evolve.

The Philippines can very well become the call center hub of Asia. In a depressed economy, it is one of the few industries that continue to grow. However, since organization growth requires some stability in talent, the challenge appears to be how to sustain such growth and make it a viable option even for long-term employment.

*(Ms Bacud is a graduate student of Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Ms Hechanova is a faculty member and Director for Research and Organization Development at the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development or Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

**What's inside**

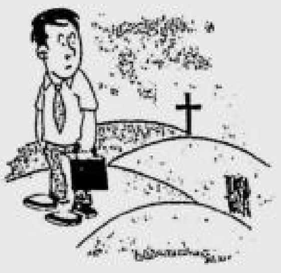
*Working Wounded: How do you add value?*
*p. N6*

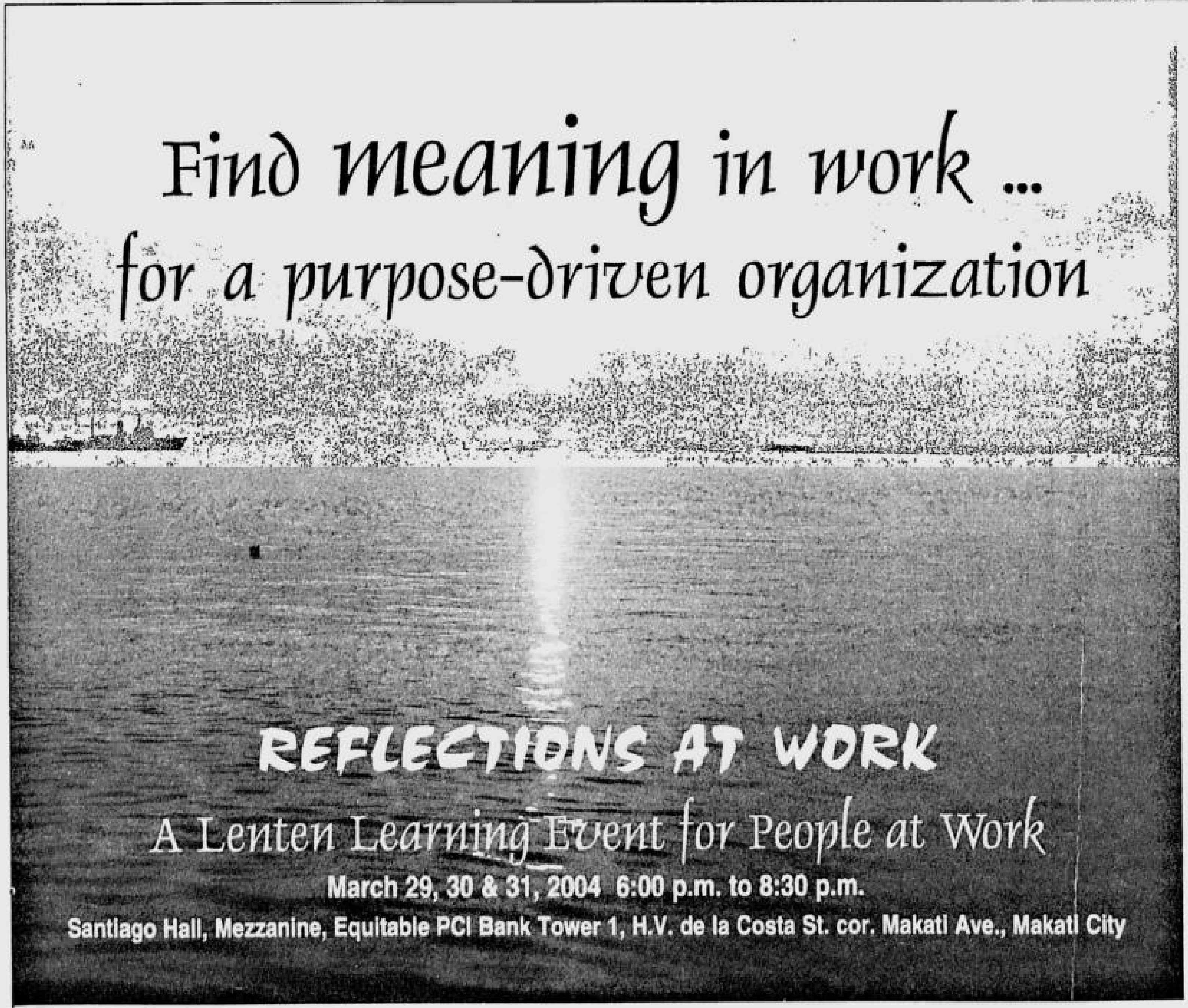
*People at Work Pulse: Fashion at work*
*p. N6*

*Reflections for the Working Soul*
*p. N4*

*Advice for the Anxious Person at Work*
*p. N4*

*HR Focus: Dr. Wolfgang Lux, American Management Association (AMA)*
*p. N6*

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A Lenten Learning Event for People at Work
March 29, 30 & 31, 2004 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

March 29 (Monday)
**Reflections for the Working Soul: Living Our Values at Work**

Resource person: **Teresa Reyes Tunay**, Blue Collar Magazine editor-in-chief and columnist in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sunday People at Work writing Reflections for the Working Soul

This session will tackle the issue of the gap between our beliefs and the way we live our lives. Since work occupies a big chunk of our lives, this gap is also reflected in our workplace—how we conduct ourselves, how we relate with our coworkers, superiors and subordinates, and how we handle moral and ethical issues at work. What are the values that we need to live by at work and how can we live these values in our day-to-day work activities and relationships? How can living our values help in our personal transformation so that we can find greater wholeness and fulfill the purpose of our existence?

March 30 (Tuesday)
**Reflections for the Organizational Soul: Building Community at Work**

Resource person: **Jocelyn Marie Fallarme Neri**, Organizational Development and Training Consultant, Psychotherapist and Pranic Healer and currently working as Senior Training Manager in an IT company

This session will tackle how people in organizations inflict wounds on one another resulting in a conflict and intrigue ridden organization—in effect a "wounded" organization. What are the wounds we inflict on each other's souls and how do these wounds impair the effectiveness of various parts of the organization and the organization's ability to fulfill its purposes? What are the ways in which we can prevent the wounding of the organizational soul? What can we do to heal the wounds of the person and the organization? How can we proceed from there to build a community that is infused with our spiritual values that can help the company achieve its true potential?

March 31 (Wednesday)
**Reflections for the Leader's Soul: Enhancing SQ (Spiritual Intelligence) in Leadership**

Resource person: **Andre San Agustin, Ph.D.**, Master Trainer, Inner Excellence Seminars and former professor in various US universities (Univ. of Arizona, Manhattan College, Iona College New York, Univ. of San Francisco, Univ. of San Diego) and in Asian Institute of Management.

This session will examine the impact of SQ or spiritual intelligence in leadership. It is considered the ultimate intelligence that enables man to be creative, change the rules, alter situations, and question why we are here. It is what we use to develop our capacity for meaning, vision and value. Can a high SQ in leaders help them confront the leadership challenges of their organizations? How can leaders enhance their spiritual intelligence and infuse their leadership with spiritual values? How can they tap the spiritual resources of their organizations to enable the whole organization to achieve its vision and mission?

TO REGISTER, CALL TEL. NO. 935-6678 OR E-MAIL optima@edsamail.com.ph.

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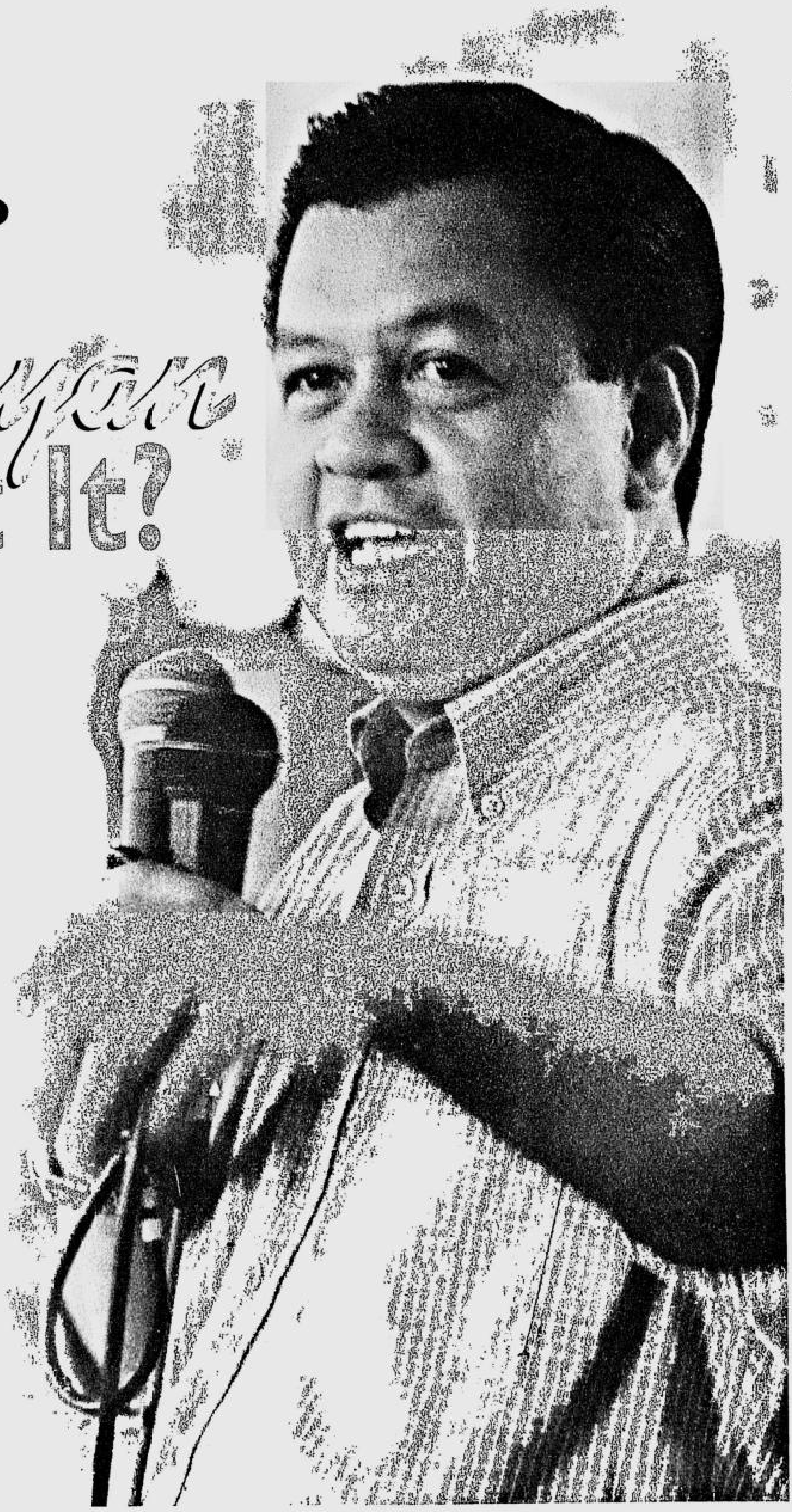

# Noli de Castro

# Can Kabayan Cut It?

*By Corazon A. Ong*
*Photographs by Egay Montaña*

**HIS BARKER'S voice, he credits to the late announcer Johnny de Leon. It was at de Leon's "Non-stop Stageshow *sa* KBS" that Sen. Noli "*Kabayan*" de Castro honed the loud and booming voice that became his trademark on *"Magandang Gabi, Bayan."* His distinctive delivery as newscaster eventually paved his way to becoming a senator and more recently, vice presidential material.**

**Five months before de Castro filed his senatorial bid in 2001, he showed this writer his off-camera side: down-to-earth, unassuming, even self-deprecating.**

"I never aspired to be on television. *Ito ba namang pigurang ito, iisipin mong mag-TV?* (With my looks, would I have thought of getting into TV?)." He was referring to the early days of the industry, when good looks could clinch one's way to fame.

Contrary to public perception, de Castro's road to fame was rough and circuitous. At the start, he recalls how his programs would flounder and were pulled out. *"Naiiyak ako noon, eh* (I was almost in tears then)."

But when fortune finally smiled on him, he was dumbfounded. "Sometimes, I'd ask myself: Am I really that well known? Am I that popular? Am I that influential?" He left the answer hanging in the air then.

Recently, thrown back the same questions, he had ready answers. Yes, he has accepted his fame and power to influence others, he says in Filipino, but he has also recognized the responsibility attached to it. "Above all, my responsibility to my fellow Filipinos will always prevail in my heart and mind."

## Veterinarian

His late mother, Demetria de Castro, wanted him to become a veterinarian, and to please her, *Kabayan* took up the course, only to give up after a year. He shifted to commerce, major in banking and finance, at the University of the East. The day he graduated from college might as well have been the happiest day in his mother's life, he recalls. She had, after all, instilled in him the importance of a good education and the value of hard work. Her death in 1999 left a void in his life, says de Castro.

Born in Pola, Oriental Mindoro where he finished both his elementary and secondary education, de Castro lost his father, Manuel de Castro Sr., to cancer when he was in Grade 5. His mother clearly needed help to support six children, and this second to the youngest child proved helpful. His chores included going around the neighborhood to collect leftover food for their pigs. *"Siyempre pag*

To page 6

*To detractors, he's a TV hack and political lightweight who can't even speak straight English. To supporters, he's a no-frills man with a phenomenal feel for what the people want. The man who would be vice president clears the air and talks about his coming to terms with being a public servant*

Ready for His Close-Up
by Tinna S. Bonifacio,

Repackaging the Japayuki
by Rissa B. Singson, *p.5*

His Touch of Life
by Gina Abuyuan-Llanes,

**The Word**

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

# A Time to Forgive and Be Forgiven

***Forgiving is not a flash of warm emotion that drives you into the arms of the person you want to forgive. It is an inner journey, a slow and painful process, like growing***

*"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you… Do not judge others, and God will not judge you… forgive others, and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give you. Indeed you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands - all that you can hold."*

**Luke 6:27-38**

**Do you remember a time when you were hurt deeply by someone who until now is on your mind, and hurting you still? That person who hurt you may now be far away, or just a neighbor across the street, but you seem to stiffen up with rage whenever you remember what he/she did to you. You feel angry, afraid and guilty at the same time—afraid of being hurt again; angry at the person who hurt you, and guilty for feeling that way and for not knowing how to react.**

Researchers at the University of Nebraska tell us that a person who is constantly fearful and angry would most likely develop migraine headaches, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, heart disease and peptic ulcer.

I remember being asked by a wheelchair-bound arthritic widow to visit her and lay hands on her once a week. In the course of my weekly visits, she unfolded her tale of woe: how her husband had left her for another woman, how she struggled alone bringing up the children for 30 years, how her children had abandoned her one by one, how bitter and vengeful she now felt towards her husband, her children, her in-laws, her sisters and nieces; how painful it was to be what she called "a victim of ingratitude" (*walang utang na loob*)—as she sat there for years nursing not only a grudge but also an assortment of symptoms like eczema, palpitations, arthritis, loss of appetite, ulcerative colitis and a very bad temper.

Visiting her during the first three months, I thought of focusing my prayer away from the physical symptoms and towards her anger and bitterness that had been eating her up all these years. I asked her to join me in praying for a way of forgiving herself for feeling nasty and mean towards the people who hurt her. I asked her to invite Jesus to help her release those whom she kept bound by her hatred which, in turn, was binding her instead to her wheelchair.

In the middle of the third month, she had the room cleaned up and decorated with curtains and plants, to the consternation of the maid who informed me that the cranky old woman had begun taking solids, and smiling a lot! I secretly arranged for a small, intimate reunion on her birthday with her estranged husband (now also abandoned by his second wife), her children, her 17 grandchildren, her nieces and her two aging sisters. We all had a ball with much embracing, sobbing and forgiving—and eating. The wheelchair-bound arthritic woman is now out of her wheelchair, has gone into the bonsai business and is running a day-care center for working mothers besides.

## Forgive and Forget

To forget is not exactly a wholesome way to grow in the process of "forgiving." Yes, we do easily forget small offenses and we graciously make excuses for people who make little mistakes. But the big wounds that leave indelible scars on our consciousness should not be forgotten. In our national experience, for example, totally forgetting the Plaza Miranda and Marag Valley massacres, and the blood and tears of the martial law years can be dangerous. In our personal experience, totally forgetting how you were abused as a child, for example, or how your daughter was shot by a demented drug user, or how your son was murdered in a fraternity hazing, can open a way for repeating the same horrible experience for yourself and others.

Remembering therefore can be an integral part of the process of forgiving. You cannot forgive what you refuse to remember, just as you cannot heal a wound which you have refused to notice.

## Take Your Time

Forgiving is not a flash of warm emotion that drives you into the arms of the person you want to forgive. It is an inner journey, a slow and painful process, like growing.

Forgiving is not something you do for someone else. It is something you do for yourself. Refusing to forgive is binding yourself to a time and place and entrapping yourself in some dark old feelings towards the offending person who at that moment might be sound asleep while you develop insomnia and nervous ticks. Refusing to forgive is binding not only yourself but also the person you need to forgive. The moment you begin to bless and forgive the person who hurt you, you release a new power within him—and he/she too begins to feel the need to give and receive forgiveness. Try it sometime.

What if the person who hurt you refuses to repent and to make reparation—and your sense of justice is being outraged? Stick to your decision to forgive, to love and to pray. Be patient. The non-violent strategy of "offering the other cheek" (Lk 6:27-29), "giving both your cloak and tunic" and "walking an extra mile" for the enemy (Mt 6:41) may sound ridiculous and maudlin, but it's spiritually and therapeutically foolproof. Jesus of Nazareth, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Jose Rizal, Maximillian Kolbe, Charles de Foucauld, Ninoy Aquino and others practised it, and the world was never the same again.

If the person who hurt you was once your best friend whom you allowed to sleep in your house, raid the ref, wear your Gucci shorts, borrow your week's allowance and share both your madness and pain, what happens to him/her when you decide to forgive him/her? Are you obliged to restore to him/her the privileges he/she enjoyed before? Discuss this with your friends. Q

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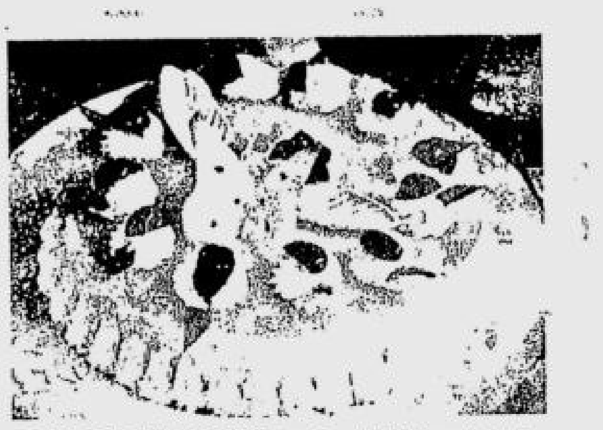


**CAKE OF THE MONTH** Spicy Pumpkin Meringue is Manila Pavilion Hotel's cake of the month. It is topped by a rich pumpkin coating and meringue bits. Spices such as cinnamon, ginger and clover give it a mysterious touch. The cake is available until March 31 at the Patisserie. For orders, call 526-1212 ext. 2326. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

## Now the Sea

The way the moon appears and disappears,
it's as if there's no moon at all.
There is only the hard night,
and this diminishing sea,
fluctuating imagined kindnesses,
like stepping on a puddle, or soft rain.

Fishermen's nets lie forgotten and useless.
Dead boats haunt the horizon,
bones of old sailors still littering their decks.
Everything else is grounded, electric.
A lone microphone wails
the monotone of the abandoned.
Some bright yellow procession drags on
through an evening heavy as the huge crucifix
heaving out of the crowd, the tangible weight
of Christ.

Tonight, the moon has betrayed all this,
reminding the natives that brilliant evenings
hold their faith. Somewhere far off,
the waves carry old voices,
insisting old names onto these shores.
They will pay for their sins.

But I might still walk on water
in this faint moment of moon,
the world so terribly solid, so nightly.
There is no need to celebrate ancient sorceries.
Beyond the current, beyond the electricity,
a beautiful, faraway lightning.

**Joel Toledo**

**Letters**

THE BIG DEAL ABOUT LOREN

I DON'T know why the writer is so excited about Loren Legarda ("The Rise of Loren Legarda," **SIM**, 7 March 2004), who is currently running as vice president to Fernando Poe Jr., who is a second year high school dropout and who is nothing but a puppet to the same politicians that run and controlled Erap as president. The same lady who opposed Erap's presidency is basically being puppeted by the same people supporting her now. The lady with no dignity, pride and self sacrifice. I bet, just like the other politicians she is with right now, she was probably offered millions of pesos and was greedy enough to be tempted and accepted their nomination. You are nothing but dirt, Ms. Legarda.

**ARMAND ALMARIO**
**15111 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91411**
**docarmand@msn.com**

BABY CLARIFIES

I FEEL compelled to write you in an effort to rectify what I believe were distortions of certain facts from the interview of Fe Zamora with me ("The Importance of Being Baby," **SIM**, 7 March 2004). I have fallen victim to so many unfair write-ups, most of which I have ignored, because I did not want to dignify them, or simply out of sheer exasperation. However, this time I feel I need to air my side because of the serious implications of the inaccuracies in the said interview.

With all due respect to Zamora, I am not saying here that the inaccuracies were deliberate, because I see no reason why and I trust that your main goal is to tell the truth. Let me just assume that I have been misunderstood and that what appeared to be serious lapses were unintentional.

First off, I have never been assigned an escort from the Presidential Security Group (PSG), which we all know is exclusive to the First Family, to which I do not belong. Zamora wrote that she encountered me once before escorted by them but how was she to know that they were from the PSG? It is not unusual for private individuals in this country to go around with security, but they do not necessarily belong to the PSG.

Secondly, Zamora made mention of a certain "Pearl Lady," allegedly a partner in a garment firm manufacturing uniforms for soldiers, who is reputed to be myself. I have never been involved in the business of supplying anything to the military establishment. I think it would not have been too much for Zamora to get my side on such an important subject that could make or break one's reputation; after all, it was an "in-depth interview" and the allegations remain as such because they are unverified. I doubt very much if she did thorough research; perhaps it was a lame but harmful attempt to spice up the interview.

Thirdly, she wrote of my so-called "heyday, when she was virtually the Jose Pidal of the Ramos administration." It is preposterous to compare me with Pidal. I have no Pidal account. I was not appointed to any position, I was not a first lady to be compared to the first gentleman, along with these accusations hurled against him. I ran under the opposition party of Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, the Nationalist People Coalition, I was cheated in my electoral bid by the machinery of the administration then.

To this day, I can honestly claim that the administration of former President Ramos has done me no favors. It would not do for ordinary Filipinos, even if during the campaign I did my humble best to help. The danger with these vague generalizations and haphazard insinuations is that the nastier they are, the more the public tends to believe them, because they regard you as the guardians of truth, armed with the best ammunitions to extract truth, not easily available to ordinary citizens. Unverified and even baseless allegations may be taken as the truth if it came from such respected sources as your paper. Those who enjoy the confidence of the people must be more circumspect because people choose to believe them, regardless of the truth. Nothing should be taken lightly.

Perhaps I am just one of the hundreds of subjects that pass through the hands of Zamora, and small details such as the ones I mentioned did not matter much to her, more like a typographical error. But to a subject like myself, it could mean my life, my name and the feelings of my family. It has been a while since I granted an in-depth interview and when I agreed to do one in your paper, I was hoping it would courageously speak of the truth not known to many, a refreshing break from my hiatus from many interviews, to give a scoop on the Bocelli concert. But as it turned out, I am truly and profoundly disappointed, if not regretful.

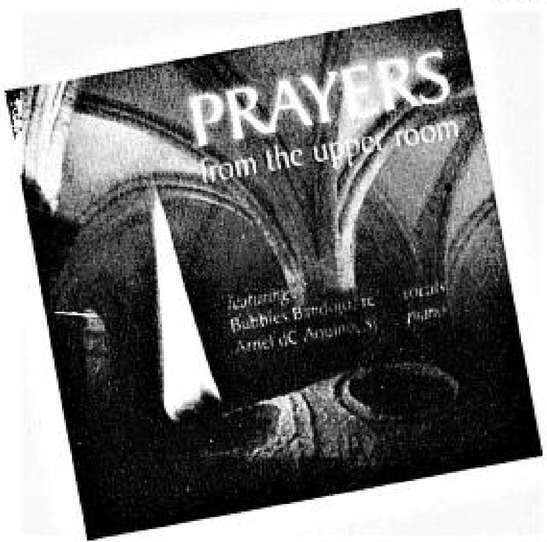
My only recourse is to appeal to your sense of fairness, that with it, you will find it in your heart to render me my due space in your paper so that your readers may know better, may understand better and so that the truth can set us free. I trust in your impartiality and so I hope to see this in print as soon as you deem appropriate. Best regards and God bless you and yours

**ROSE MARIE JIMENEZ DE ARENAS**
**Mayfair Mansion, 116 Perea St.,**
**Legaspi Village, Makati City**

**Noteworthy**

# Sisters With Voices

*Looking for some music to meditate on this Lent? The Jesuit Music Ministry teams up with some angelic-voiced nuns for a truly divine recording*



**THE BEAUTIFUL** recordings of the Jesuit Music Ministry, particularly the haunting piano albums of Arnel dC Aquino, SJ in the highly popular "Lauds" series, have become the soundtrack for retreats and meditation groups all over the metropolis. Now, the Ministry has teamed up with the Religious of the Cenacle Philippines-Singapore Region—particularly with a gifted nun who sings like an angel, Bubbles Bandojo, RC—to come up with a divinely inspired collection of religious songs sure to touch the heart, "Prayers from the Upper Room." The room refers to the biblical Cenacle, where the disciples returned with Mary after the Ascension to pray. It is also the name of the order of nuns based in Quezon City who have made giving retreats and spiritual direction their mission.

To page 7

Singing nuns Bubbles Bandojo and Susay Valdez

SIMPLE DIARRHEA CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS DEHYDRATION

Pediatric Diarrhea is condition that should be taken seriously. That's because it is the source of dehydration or the loss of water and electrolytes from the child's body. And when dehydration isn't controlled, it may lead to more serious complications of the heart and kidneys.

It has been a common practice to give children plain water and even rice water or "am" when they have diarrhea. But what many parents do not know is that these cannot replenish the lost electrolytes and therefore are not enough to fight dehydration.

That is why it is best to give children Hydrite (Oral Rehdyration Salts) while they are experiencing diarrhea. It has the right combination of water and electrolytes as recommended by the World Health Organization to help prevent dehydration.

Save the children from the dangers of dehydration.

Hydrite is the solution.

*HYDRITE*
Tamang solusyon sa dehydration dulot ng diarrhea.

***Hydrite*** is available in sachet and tablets.

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TAMANG SOLUSYON SA DEHYDRAT

2.7 gms
Oral Rehydration Salts
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Now also available in sachet!

Kapag may diarrhea, may dehydration. Ito ang pagkawala ng tubig at electrolytes -- ang sangkap-buhay ng katawan. At kapag malubha ang pagbawas ng electrolytes, nasa panganib ang buhay ng inyong anak. Habang may diarrhea, mag-HYDRITE agad. Naglalaman ng electrolytes na approved ng World Health Organization. Kaya sa HYDRITE, siguradong ligtas ang inyong anak sa panganib ng dehydration dulot ng diarrhea.

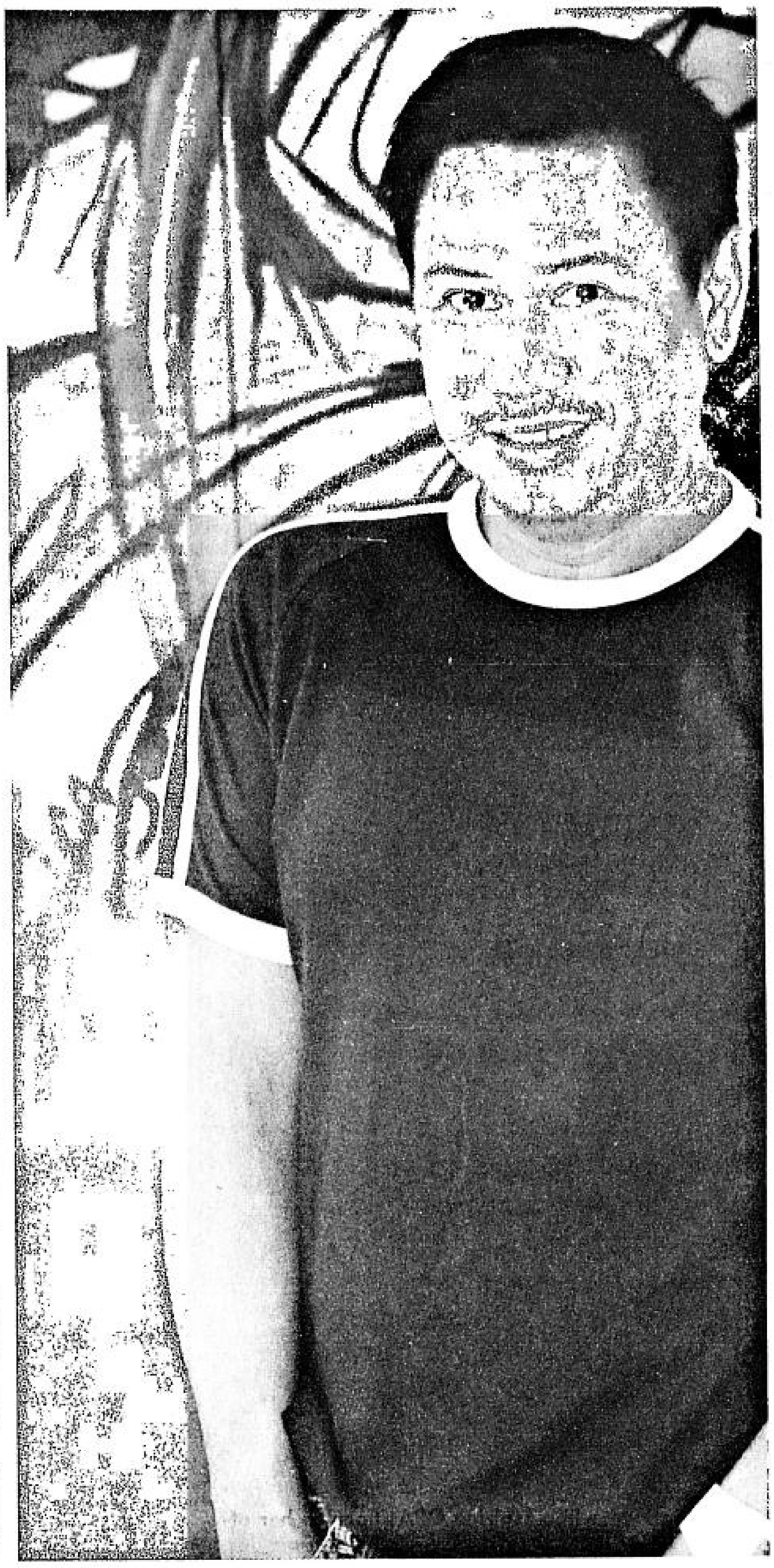
Pour 2 sachets into 200ml cold water. Stir to dissolve. Drink immediately.
Oral Rehydration Salts
Hydrite

Seen on TV

**By Tinna S. Bonifacio**
**Photographs by Randy Hormillosa**

# Ready for His Close-Up

## Designer Frederick Peralta expands his creative horizons anew with an upcoming role in a telenovela, where he plays—who else—Frederick Peralta, designer



**IN THE next few months, viewers of the GMA-7 telenovela "*Te Amo*" will be seeing a new face on their TV screens. He might not look familiar to them, but to fashionistas he will be. Designer Frederick Peralta, best known for his opulent evening gowns and bridal ensembles, will soon be starring on TV—as himself.**

Yes, you read that right. Frederick, the first Philippine representative to the Le Concours International des Jeunes Createurs de Mode young designers competition in Paris, has found a new channel for his creativity. This June, he will debut in "*Te Amo*" as Frederick Peralta, designer, in a role that—pardon the pun—seems to have been tailor-made for him.

Briefly, the storyline is that one of Frederick's models (played by Professional Models Association of the Philippines president Rissa Mananquil-Samson) has a huge attitude problem. One day, as if in answer to his prayers, Frederick chances upon a flower delivery girl played by Wilma Doesnt. He is so impressed by her that he decides to take her under his wing and turn her into a real fashion model. She stuns one and all by making her debut in Frederick's fashion show. The GMA-7 executives even hired real models and staged a fashion show at the ballroom of the Riverbanks Hotel in Marikina to make everything look authentic.

### Not too gay

Frederick did not have to audition to land the role; it was offered to him. "Actually, GMA-7 commissioned me to design the outfits for a billboard to promote the show. I made gowns for all the lead actresses, and a suit for Jomari (Yllana). Then one day, they asked me to talk to Direk Khryss (Adalla). When I found out they wanted me to play myself on the show, I laughed and said, 'Are you sure of this?' It turns out they were completely serious," he relates.

But Frederick, who once played a bit part in the Maricel Soriano movie "*Dinampot Ka Lang Sa Putik*" and who used to host a TV show called "Moda Filipiniana," was ambivalent about the offer. "I didn't say yes right away," recalls Frederick. "I asked a lot of friends if I should accept it or not, and they said yes, as long as my name would be respected." Frederick had a lot to be concerned about; aside from being one of the country's top fashion names for 21 years and an international award-winning designer, he is also father to an 11-year-old boy named Kevin, and he is anxious to protect his reputation.

This was why he turned down an earlier offer to play a designer on another teleserye. He had said no because he felt the character (which was finally played by Frannie Zamora) was too gay. But when the producers of "*Te Amo*" promised a more low-key approach to the character, he was convinced. In fact, none of the episodes with him show him designing or sketching. He says they had a "very corporate" approach to the character, which worked just fine for him. The "corporate" approach was even more felt because of the fact that instead of artsy Malate, Frederick's character had a design atelier in the Ortigas district. They shot most of the office scenes at Linden Suites. "The character is very now," says Frederick.

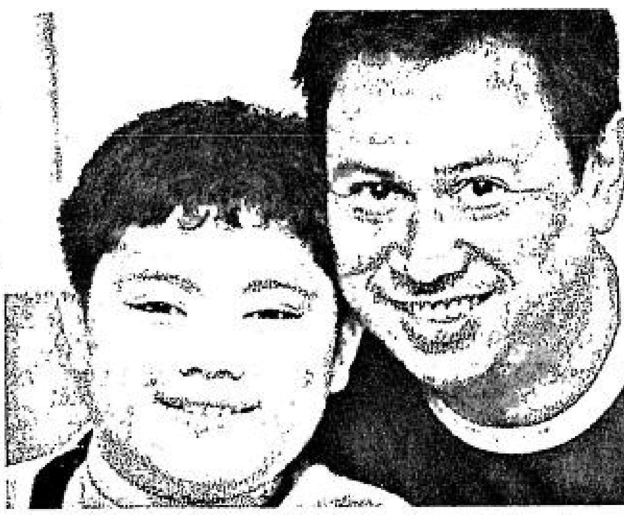
His son Kevin, who is due to graduate from seventh grade at the Philippine Christian University this month, is quite excited over the fact that Frederick is coming out on TV. "Everything I do, he's proud of. That's why I was concerned about this role not having too much *baklaan*. I want him to know that his father is respected as an actor."

Surprisingly, Frederick was "Take One" all the way despite not really having any acting experience. He was so professional that he finished shooting all his scenes in only two days, on February 5 and February 17. Direk Khryss and the other members of the production staff were so impressed that by the time the shooting was over, they were proclaiming Frederick "a natural actor."

### Honored guest

But Frederick says it's not as easy as it looks. "I was kind of conscious during the taping," he laughs. "I was thinking, '*Ano ba itong napasukan ko?*' (What have I gotten into?) I was nervous at first, then when they called me to the set, I said, 'Oh my God, it's my turn!"

Fortunately for Frederick, he had no problems meshing his real-life role as a designer with his reel one. He taught himself to focus on the character by thinking it was just another show. The fact that he was working with real models (some of whom he had worked with in previous fashion shows) made it even easier. "I was really surprised, because they treated me like an honored guest," he says of the "*Te Amo*" production crew. "Like with the fashion show, they really mounted that in my name, and they even used a lot of extras for the audience. They considered everything. They even rented a ballroom. *Nagulat talaga ako.* I didn't expect to be treated like that. *Pero ang sarap pala ng* feeling *artista!*"



**Designing dad: With son Kevin, 11**

His designer friends, he says, were thinking pretty much the same thing. When he met up with his colleagues in the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), they teased him, "*Ang ate namin, artista na* (Our sister is a TV star)!"

### Models and friends

Frederick—who, as of this writing, is in New York to mount a fashion show—has already watched the episodes that will be aired by GMA sometime in June. A lot of the scenes, he says, are reminiscent of his own life as a designer. "There's one scene I can't forget. It's the night before the show, and I'm sitting at the end of the ramp, looking at the stage and thinking of what's going to happen tomorrow. Then Wilma comes out, I call her and we sit there talking. That's very me." Whenever he mounts a show (or even when he participates in a group show), Frederick says he treats the models as friends. He talks to them, even about subjects that have absolutely nothing to do with fashion. Among the models that he counts as close friends are JoAnn Bitagcol, Georgette Nepomuceno, Romina Urra and his co-star in "*Te Amo,*" Wilma Doesnt.

Of course, for dramatic flair, some scenes had to be added, such as a backstage catfight between the fashion diva, played by Rissa, and Wilma, the up-and-coming model. "I hardly see that any more these days—now everything is fair and square among the models," explains Frederick.

We asked Frederick about his talent fee. He wouldn't tell us how much it was, but he shares that he bought a lot of fashion magazines and gave his assistants something, maybe for minding the shop while he was away.

Frederick says that he enjoyed acting. He wouldn't mind taking on another role (even if it's not as a designer) in the future. Acting is just another thing on the list of creative pursuits he's tried: singing (he is looking for sponsors to finance a CD of duets he plans to record), writing (he writes a column, "Mode Reportage," for a daily newspaper) and editing (he is fashion editor of a wedding magazine). Not to mention, of course, his being a fashion designer with a client list that includes both socialites and celebrities like Edu Manzano, Assunta de Rossi (he made the gown Assunta wore to her civil wedding to Jules Ledesma) and newscaster Vicky Morales. Acting, he says, just gave his creative energies a new outlet. "I like to explore my horizons," he says. "And I've always believed that if other people can do it, why can't I?"

### Humble origins

Maybe the reason he enjoys acting so much is that he's had a pretty dramatic life himself. Frederick's parents separated when he was just five years old. His mother, to keep the family going, sold fish in the market. Frederick would help out once in a while. He even worked as a newspaper boy and served as a sacristan at the community church in Roxas District, where he grew up after leaving his native Dueñas, Iloilo. In college, he took up Foreign Service at Lyceum, but later became an apprentice to fashion designer Gregg Centeno for two years. After that, he struck out on his own. People have asked him if he's ashamed of his humble origins. What is there to be ashamed about, asks Frederick? "What I am today is the product of my own initiative. I learned to value the struggles of life. But it's those life experiences that I value so much because they taught me to become a better person."

Now, he says, his life is focused on other things—specifically, helping other people achieve their goals. That's why he constantly tells Kevin that the only thing his Daddy can really leave him is his education. It's also why he is unselfish about sharing his talents with apprentices who eventually go abroad, taking with them what he taught them. "I've achieved all my dreams. Now, I'd like to make a difference in other people's lives."

**"So me": Frederick makes peace between Wilma Doesnt and Rissa Samson in a scene from "*Te Amo*"**

HANDY NAVASERO

An eye for spotting talent makes Christie a natural for her job

**For A Cause**

# Repackaging the Japayuki

**By Rissa B. Singson**

**IN HER high-heeled strappy sandals and smart business suit, Christie Gatchalian-Buan strides confidently into the compound of Gatchalian Promotions. The place is teeming with young, talented women who hope to make it out of the country soon as overseas performing artists (OPAs). On Fridays, when aspiring OPAs flock to her office to be discovered, Christie walks past them, and may stop in front of one applicant and send her straight in for an interview. After being in the talent promotion business for almost 18 years, she can spot a potential talent in a crowd, even if the applicant is 20 pounds overweight.**

> *Christie Buan runs a talent promotion agency that she inherited from her mother, a pioneering overseas performing artist in Japan. Today, it's her mission to restore the dignity of much-maligned outbound cultural workers*

Christie climbs the stairs to her office, walking past rehearsal halls where Japan-bound dancers are perfecting their routines. Near the stairs is a small room where the mirrors are outlined with incandescent bulbs. A makeup artist is busy beautifying yet another would-be artist while the other girls touch up their own faces. A Japanese promoter is arriving to conduct an audition, and the girls are getting ready.

On a wall across the makeup room, professional-looking photos show off some of Gatchalian Promotions' artists decked in their colorful and extravagant costumes. Christie shot these pictures, fruit of the photography lessons she took for purposes like these. Her resumé boasts of other courses she has attended to better equip her for the job as vice president for operations and director of the training center of her family-owned agency. Aside from the leadership and training seminars she has completed, she also took a course in Professional Makeup Artistry at the JLS Makeup Studio in Hollywood, California, and Fashion Designing.

## Second generation

Being a second-generation owner of a talent promotion agency, Christie inherited her artistic talents from her mom and her management prowess from her dad. Their multi-awarded company has been one of the pioneers in the industry. Her mom, Teresita Apolinario, was the first recording artist of Villar records, the Philippine's first recording company. She was the vocalist of a band called Ronnie Villar and the Firedons, whose members were the children of the Villars. But before they could wax their first single, Teresita, then 20, married Roger Gatchalian.

But the call of show business didn't wane even after Teresita had kids. When her eldest daughter Christie was seven, Teresita decided to pursue singing as her calling, and went to Japan for a four-month stint with a band. Christie recalls seeing photos of her mom in a fur coat, sitting in a limousine. "That's how highly Filipino artists were regarded then," Christie comments with a sigh and a dream to restore the OPAs to that level once again.

It was there that a Japanese promoter approached her mom, asking if she knew of other bands from the Philippines who could be booked for Japan. It was the early '70s, and sending entertainers to Japan was as simple as getting a visa. Roger, who was then running the family-owned restaurant, Gatchalian Lechon, handled the paper work. What started as a response to one request soon snowballed into a full-fledged business.

Initially, they would just send talents to the same club where Teresita performed because she could vouch for its safety and wholesome ambience. "*Nagkaroon ng maraming* bookings *yung* Japanese promoter, because the bands we sent were really good. Then the other hotels started looking, 'We want more bands!'" Christie narrates.

In their first year, they had 15 principals, mostly from Tokyo, Hakodate and Shizuoka. Their clientele and facilities grew through the years and, in 1985 and 1986, their agency was granted the "Top Performer Award" for having deployed some 3,000 artists in a year. In 1995, they added a training center to their agency to accommodate the growing number of prospective artists they attracted.

Today, their agency celebrates 26 years in the talent promotion industry, antedating even the establishment of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. They also boast of the capacity and capability to graduate a thousand true-blue artists yearly.

## Recording career

Christie was in first year college when she herself dabbled in show business. Her mom bumped into her old friends, the Villars, who were then in the process of setting up a new company and reviving their recording business. When they found out that Teresita had a daughter who could sing, they asked her to audition. Christie soon signed up with A&W Recording and started with two singles, both songs composed by Rey Valera. "Unfortunately, they didn't become hits because I was in school and could promote them only during the summer," recalls Christie. Then she recorded another one titled "*Pira-pira-song Alaala*," which became a hit, but could have made it even bigger if her studies didn't get in the way.

Christie's Mom Teresita Apolinario, a recording artist and pioneering OPA in Japan, inspired her to handle the business

But even after completing her degree in Mass Communications, Christie didn't return to show biz. "I prefer being backstage. That's why I got involved with our company. When they decided to put up a production, *yun ang* feel *ko*." She wrote scripts, as well as write-ups and press releases for their talents.

Unlike her mom who actually worked in Japan as an overseas performing artist, Christie cannot strictly say she's been in the shoes of their talents. But her short stint in showbiz has given her enough experience to know what these women face in their workplace. "I normally tell my talents, how I wish I had the chance to work abroad because it would be an enriching experience for me. I would have been a more credible trainor if I had been there, done that."

It's almost impossible to listen to Christie speak of the plight of the industry and miss out on the passion she has for overseas performing artists. "The industry has been here for so long but most of the time, we come to know about the negative side, like when someone dies or is abused. But the good part of it has never been really given attention. And probably that image—the *japayuki* stigma—could be the reason why we're having a hard time dealing with the government," laments Christie. "Sometimes they do the thinking for us, without considering our needs. Like them, we want to put order in the industry because this is our business. We want to emphasize its good side. In this campaign, we have the OPAs in mind."

As president of both the Philippine Entertainment Exporters and Promoters Association, one of three associations that represent the whole industry, and the umbrella group Confederated Associations of Licensed Entertainment Agencies (CALEA), Christie and her peers are fighting for the integrity of the Artist Record Book (ARB). It's the accreditation every entertainer needs for them to be booked for performances abroad.

## Corruption

The ARB is given to artists who have successfully finished training and passed the testing conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). But as Christie and her other concerned colleagues have discovered, those with enough money can buy themselves an ARB. "The original concept of the Artist Record Book is that no one can question your competence if you have it, because it's assumed that you passed through the proper training and process. But the system itself has been tainted with corruption, because you can now buy an ARB for P50,000 if you want to go and work in Japan," she says. They proved this when the associations raised money and set up a sting operation where they sent an unqualified talent to pay her way through the accreditation system. Without having to take any tests, the person secured a genuine ARB.

Christie and the presidents of the two other associations under CALEA have brought up the matter with TESDA but, to this day, they've been given the runaround. "It's so exhausting because, as an industry, we're supposed to be doing projects that are developmental, like scholarships for people who want to do further studies. Instead, we're so preoccupied in talking with the government about the accreditation system," she complains.

What bothers Christie the most is that, ultimately, it's the OPAs who suffer. "*Sayang* because they don't have much opportunity here," she says. "Culturally, Filipinos are very, very talented. Like in Japan, for you to be able to play the piano you need formal training. But out here, what are you talking about? *Oido lang kami* (We just play it by ear)," she gushes.

Once she was talking to a friend who was getting bands for Shanghai. She asked him why he chose Filipino entertainers, knowing how thorny it was to hire them with all the accreditation needed. Her friend replied, "Because they're very talented and hardworking." Amen to that, says Christie, and that's what fuels her passion for showcasing the Filipino artist to the rest of the world. ◘

# Noli ...from page 1

high school *meron ka nang nililigaw-ligawan, eh, nakakahiya pag may bitbit kang kaning-baboy, so magtatago muna ako.* (I was in high school and was already courting some girls. It was quite embarrassing to be seen carrying pig slop, so I would hide)."

*Kabayan* has come a long way, indeed. His popular monicker came from the initials of an early radio program he used to host: *"Kapangyarihan ng Mamamayan, Balita at Talakayan"* (The Power of the People, News and Discussion). This was the early '70s and times were hard then, he recalls. He turned to the Black Nazarene for help and guidance and to this day, long after his prayers have been answered, he remains a devotee who joins the throng during the image's annual procession in Quiapo. He swears to continue his devotion even if he wins the second highest office in the land. *"Naniniwala ako na lahat ng magagandang nangyayari sa aking buhay ay pinagkaloob ng Mahal na Poon.* (I believe that all the blessings in my life come from God)."

God, he adds, will also propel him to the vice presidency. "As a senator, I'm happy to have helped people however I can. But I never imagined running for higher office, so I believe that it's God who's behind all this."

"All this" could refer to the strong indications of de Castro's chances in his political bid. After topping the senatorial race in 2001 with 16.1 million votes, he has also consistently topped surveys on the vice presidential hopefuls. Prior to announcing his VP candidacy, the newscaster also topped the Social Weather Stations (SWS) presidential polls conducted from August 30 to September 14, 2003.

### "Runaway winner"

Says his colleague, Sen. Joker Arroyo of this trend, "Noli was leading the poll surveys both for President and Vice President. Based on the polls he was a runaway winner for either office... He could have walked to the presidency but opted not to. What this tells us is that Noli does not lust for power, nor will he grab an opportunity for this glorification just because it is there for the asking. It takes character to be able to do that."

Senators Arroyo, de Castro, Rafael Recto, Francisco Pangilinan and Manuel Villar—all first termers in the Senate—have formed the Wednesday group. Says Arroyo, "We meet for dinner and drinks every Wednesday after the session for animated and serious discussions of public events and matters of public concern." De Castro, he notes, has "an uncanny feel of people's concerns gathered after communicating with millions of his viewers and listeners every day for over 20 years. His experience in broadcast has given him a strong command of the issues."

To detractors who consider *Kabayan* a lightweight when it comes to passing laws, Arroyo counters, "He has sponsored more measures than I have and has taken the floor during plenary debates more times than I did. He does these things without fanfare."

And he does have a heart for the masses, Arroyo adds. "Noli does not relish being Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the traditional office offered to the vice president. He intimated that he prefers the agriculture portfolio, as it is here where he can serve more Filipinos, and where he is nearer the rural folk."

De Castro's facility in Filipino is one more proof that he has close affinity with common folk, but ironically, it has been used to downgrade him. His seeming reluctance to speak in English has made him an easy target for those who believe that, popularity aside, he has really nothing substantial to offer the country. As the next in rank to the President, observers say, de Castro has to mingle with all kinds of people. How, for instance, would he fare talking with foreign dignitaries or discussing issues with them?

His close association with the Lopez family of ABS-CBN is another issue being raised against his candidacy. Once in position, some people contend, de Castro could be used by the Lopezes to protect their business interests in Meralco, Maynilad and other companies. "My message to the public: I will not do anything that's against your interests or that will break the trust you've given me for the past 30 years." He is his own man, claims *Kabayan*, and nobody can dictate on him.

### Paid hack?

But the biggest issue hurled against him, and which has refused to die down all these years, is his allegedly being a paid hack, a journalist on the take who uses his popular TV show for ACDC (slang for "attack and collect, defend and collect"). Critics claim that though both sides are given an airing in de Castro's *"Magandang Gabi, Bayan,"* the highest bidder gets longer footage and better angling in the story. Right after he announced his vice presidential bid, an e-mail message circulating from the US announced, *"P750 milyones daw ang ibinayad kay Noli Boy at sa totoo daw ay walang pakialam ito kung matalo man dahil panalo pa rin siya.* (Noli Boy was reportedly paid P750 million and the truth is, he doesn't care if he wins or loses.)"

De Castro has denied the allegations time and again. In a recent "Dong Puno Live" show, when confronted with the issue, he replied, "If you can prove all that, I will resign right now as senator and will no longer run for office.

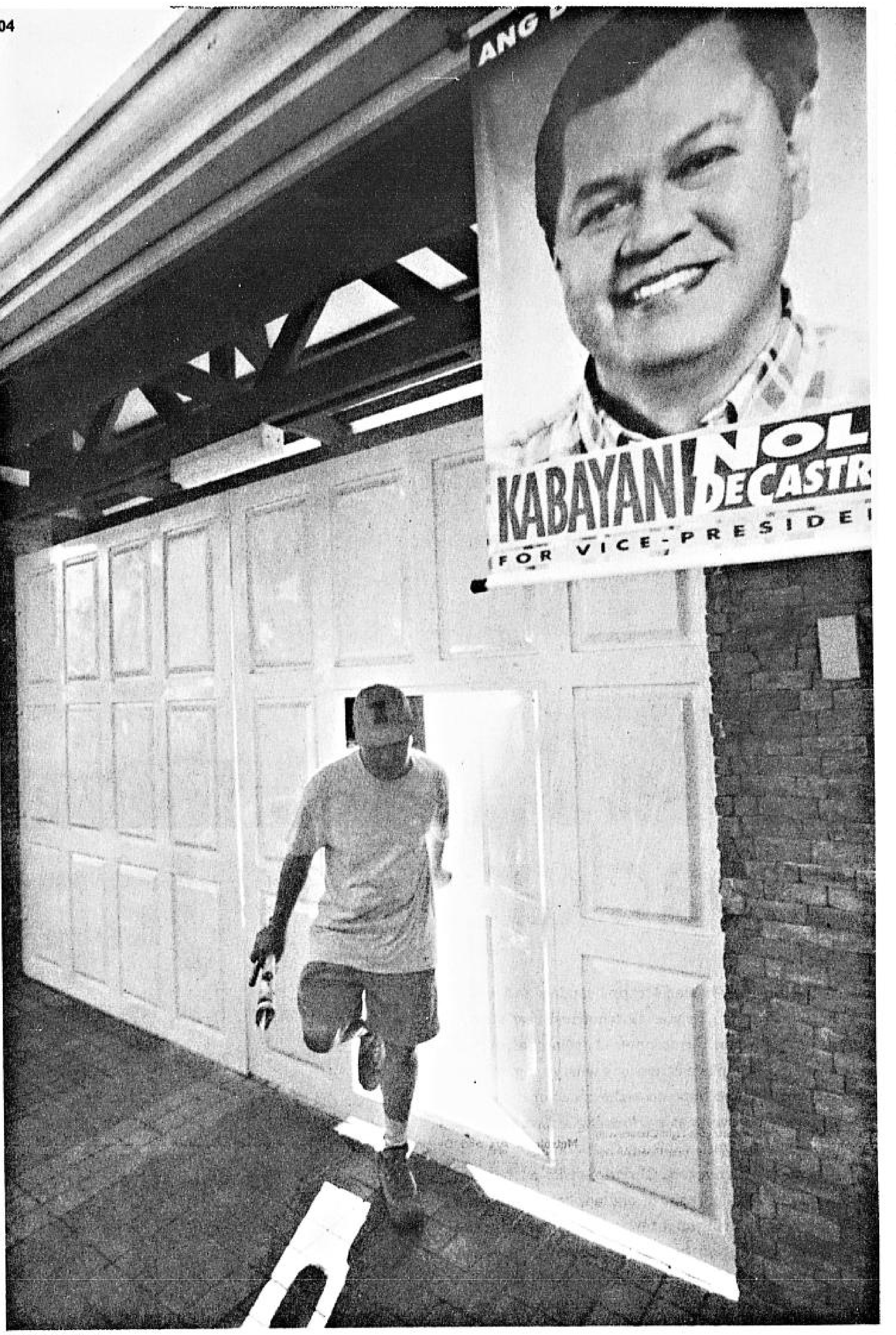
"Intrigues are no longer new to me," de Castro says. "They are used by my rivals to score points against me. Such propaganda is part and parcel of elections. But I'm confident that whatever intrigue is thrown my way, the public will always support me."

While *Kabayan* is now deep in the campaign trail, he tries to find time to relax and get enough sleep. *"Importante sa isang tao ang magkaroon ng panahon para sa kanyang sarili.* (It is important for people to have time for themselves.) Taking care of my plants is my way of relaxing. I also try to get no less than six hours of sleep a day."

His love for nature is evident in his house in Quezon City, which is surrounded by lush palm trees planted by *Kabayan* himself. There is also an indoor garden where he usually relaxes while reading the Sunday papers. He keeps several pets at home, including Japanese koi, dogs, a white cockatoo named Bayan and a blue-and-yellow macaw named Valentine.

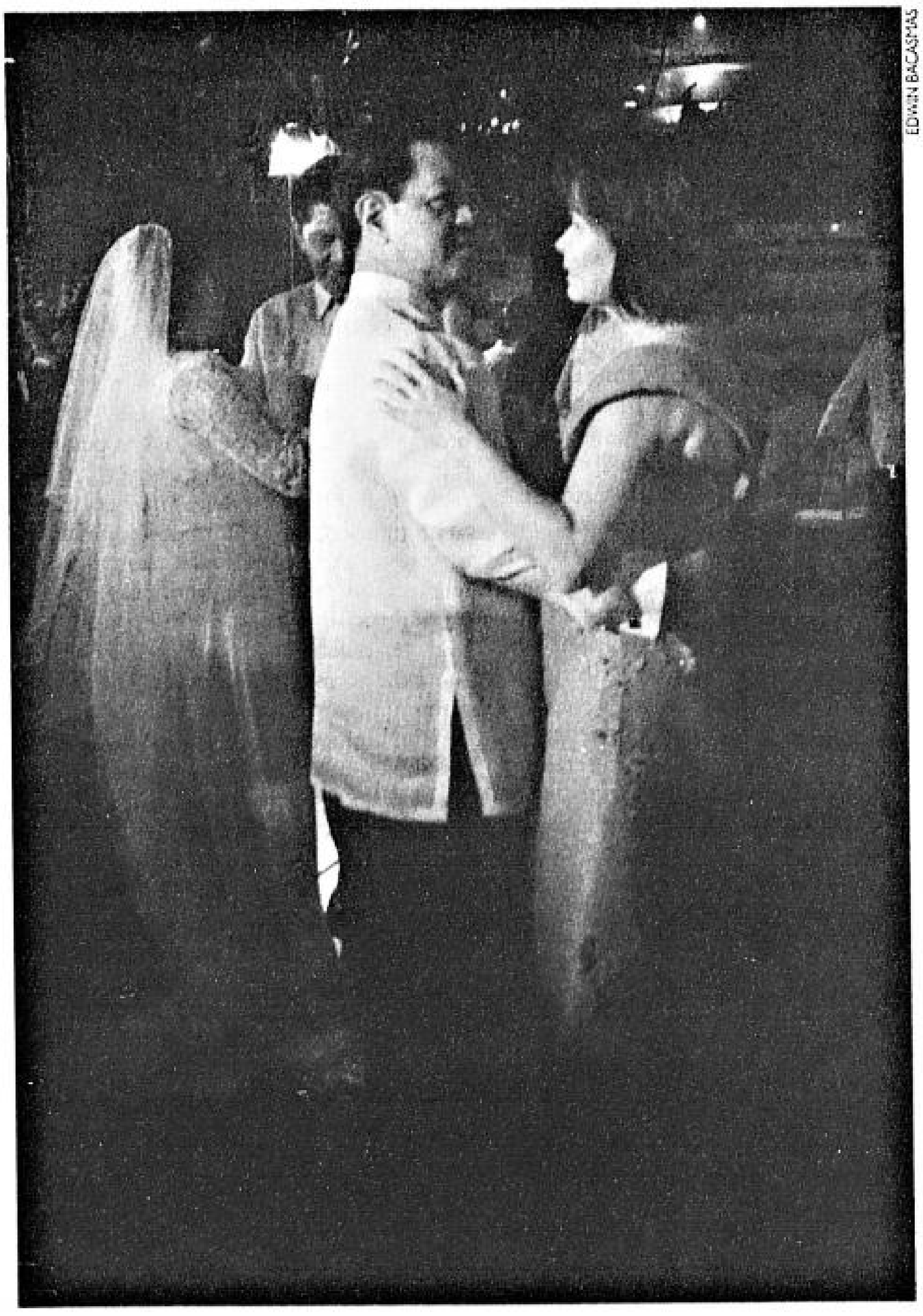
De Castro has his own colorful past. Still on the Dong Puno show, *Kabayan* disclosed that his adopted daughter, Katherine de Castro, herself a TV newscaster who was recently married in a much-publicized wedding, *"ay anak ko sa pagkabinata."* (She was born out of wedlock). *Kabayan* is married to Arlene Sinsuat de Castro, who comes from a prominent Mindanao political clan. Until last year, when she resigned from her post, Arlene was assistant vice president of ABS-CBN's News and Current Affairs. They have one child, a son named Shamier, aged 12.

So is Noli de Castro a true, no-frills leader for the masses, or a political babe in the woods buoyed only by media popularity? Will he soon be intoning, *"Magandang araw, bayan"* from the hallowed halls of Malacañang? As they say on television, *abangan* (stay tuned)! Q



Rushing off to another full day from his Quezon City home

Dancing with wife Arlene at his daughter's wedding



EDWIN BACASMAS

## This Week

# Art

Ten artists belonging to **Tam-awan Group** are holding an exhibit of their recent works at the Renaissance Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall until March 31. The artists are led by BenCab, Buddy Cabrera, Ged Alangui, Leonard Aguinaldo, Jojo Elmeda, Roland Bay-an, Tuls Tulas, John Frank Sabado, Jordan Mangosan and Rishab.

**Philippines, Gateway to the Orient: From Legaspi to Malaspina** presents a historical overview of the colonization of the country by Spain from the time of the arrival of Miguel Lopez de Lagaspi (1503-1572) to the period of the arrival of Alejandro Malaspina (1754-1810), on view at the National Museum , Teodoro Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila until April. For details, call 528-4912.

**Advanced Problems 101**, a group exhibit by Ronald Anading, Ringo Bunoan, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Jayson Oliveria and MM Yu detailing the diversity of their approaches and concerns in their art, at the Mag:net Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo Roxas cor. Sedeno St., Makati City until April 3.

**Between Covers: Original Artworks of Filipino Romance Novels**, a selection of original artworks for romance book covers made by various Filipino artists, until April 10 at the Lobby of the UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC.

**Weaving in Revolt**, a collection of artworks by Allison Wong David, Deborah Del-Pan, Teresita C. Mapua and Molly Yap, has been extended to May at the GSIS Museum, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

**Robie Guevarra plays Dagul Loco in "Electile Dysfunction," onstage at the Music Museum**

# Music

**Cecile Licad** will hold a **national concert tour** starting with a guest performance in the 170th anniversary of Ayala Corporations on March 23; an outreach concert at the Baguio Cultural Center in Camp John Hay on March 27; a gala concert at Pasig Museum on March 31; and a fundraising concert at the CCP Main Theater sponsored by Cribs on April 2. For inquiries, call 901-7156.

**Concert at the Park** goes Light Classics with the Reborn Band tonight at 6 at the Open-Air Auditorium, Luneta Park. Admission is free.

**Spinning Will.** DJs Romeo Lee, Lourd de Veyra, Baba Balce, James Bald and Couchlab spin real music. Jazz, lounge, rock 'n' roll, house, blues, bossa, latin reggae and all points in between. Friday, March 26, 9 p.m. at Sanctum, Intramuros, Manila.

# Onstage

**Electile Dysfunction**, a comedy tackling the presidential candidates and the Philippine socio-economic and political landscapes, will be staged again at the Music Museum on March 30, 31 and April 1. Tickets available at the Music Museum and all Ticketworld outlets. For group bookings and show buyers, call 843-3503 or 843-3836.

# Food

**Kulinarya Kitchen** at the concourse level of Rockwell Powerplant not only serves savory meatless dishes but also has a special dessert this month—melon and tapioca pearls ala mode. Kulinarya best-sellers like gamberi pasta, Chilean sea bass, pan-seared red snapper, crispy calamari and papaya and other Asian and European dishes are very much available. For reservations, call 898-1738.

Discover the rich flavors of Liguria, Piedmont, Lombardy, Tuscany, Emilia Romagna and Venice at The Peninsula Manila Mi Piace restaurant with *Profumi del Nord Italia*—**Flavors of North Italy Festival** until April 7. There will also be an exclusive cooking class on March 27 to be conducted by Chef Michele Mingozzi from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Mi Piace Kitchen. For inquiries, call 887-2888 ext. 2947 and 2952.

**Mandarin Oriental, Manila rewards** this year's **graduates** with a complimentary massage treatment at the Oriental Spa when they dine with friends and families for a minimum of P12,800 at Tin Hau and P16,800 at The Tivoli until April 5. Diners may choose from the restaurants' set or a la carte menus. For inquiries, call 750-8888 ext. 2431 (The Tivoli) and 2422 (Tin Hau).

# Atbp

Tanghalang Pilipino will have **auditions for Lonnie Carter's "The Romance of Magno Rubio"** on March 26, 6-10 p.m . and March 27, 4-8 p.m . at the Conference Room, Upper Basement, CCP Main Building. Open to male actors, 21 years old and up, can sing, act, and dance. The ability to play an instrument (e.g. guitar, banduria, harmonica) is a plus. The actors must be adept in handling both English and Filipino performances. Those interested must bring their resumé, most recent photo (2x2 or bigger), and minus-one/CD and/or musical instrument. For details, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621.

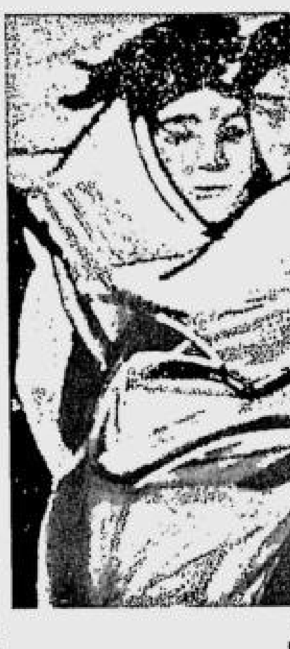
The University of Asia and the Pacific School of Management will hold a **seminar on Accounting for Non-Accountants** on March 24-26. The seminar will focus on understanding key concepts in accounting and financial management, improving business performance and increasing shareholder value. For details, call 634-2834 or 637-0912 to 26 ext. 241.

Learn all you need to know about meditation through **The Science of Meditation—A Free Seminar** featuring tried and tested techniques to achieve health, longevity, stress relief, psychic development and a magnetic personality. To be held on March 28, 2 to 5 p.m. at Room 101, University Hotel, UP Diliman, QC. For details, call 417-0355.

The UP Vargas Museum will host a three-day **workshop on Basic Condition Reporting** from April 16-18 at the Vargas Museum in UP Diliman, Quezon City. Nicole Tse, an Australian expert from the University of Melbourne who has conservation research and practical experience in the Philippines, will conduct the workshop. It will identify new methods and guidelines for preventive care, conservation treatment and transportation of Western art materials in humid conditions. Application is ongoing until March 31. Qualified candidates will be informed on April 12. For inquiries, call Linda at 928-1927 or 920-5301 loc. 7408.

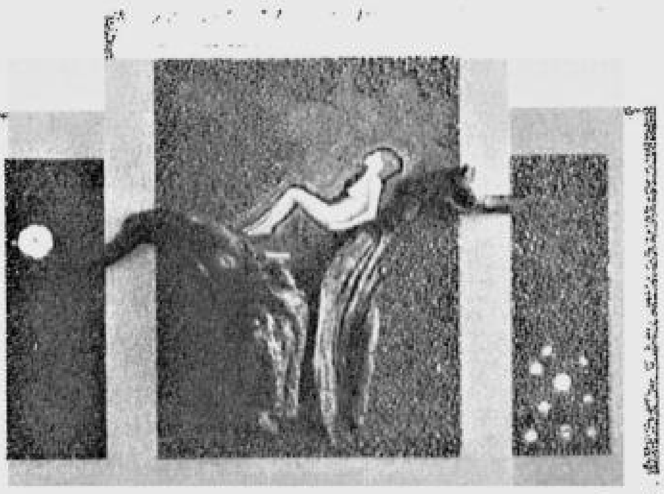
Painter-Art teacher **Fernando B. Sena** will conduct a **Summer Art Workshop** for 8 years old and above every Wednesdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. from March 31 to May 26 for a total of eight sessions. Another art workshop for ages 5 to 7 years old will be given by Salvador Bernardo and Serafin Orpilla to be held every Tuesdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m. from March 30 to May 25. Lessons include drawing and painting of still life, landscapes, seascapes, portraits and other figurative themes using various media. The workshop will be held at the UP Vargas Museum Basement, Diliman, Quezon City. Registration is on going, only limited participants will be accepted. For inquiries, call Linda at 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7408 or Fernando B. Sena at 924-6425 or 925-8801.

The Metrobank Foundation has launched the **Metrobank Art and Design Excellence**, a painting and sculpture competition open to Filipinos, 18 to 35 years old, who have not held a solo exhibit, while licensed architects and interior designers aged 25 to 40 years old are eligible to join the architecture and interior design competitions. Painting covers both oil-based medium on canvas and water media on paper categories. All entries must be wholly executed by the participants. Cash prizes await winners. Painting and sculpture entries should be submitted in 5R photo print format along with the official entry form and other pertinent documents. Applicants need not submit the actual artwork. Submission of documents for painting and sculpture categories is on or before May 7 at the Metrobank Foundation office, 15th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Entry forms for painting and sculpture are available at all Metrobank branches nationwide. Entry forms for architecture and interior design will be available by April. For inquiries, call Aris Valenciano or Fiona Ting at (02) 898-8856 or (02) 750-0837 or visit the nearest Metrobank branch in your area.



**BenCab's "Two Figures," part of the Tam-awan Group's exhibit at the Renaissance Art Gallery**

**Young Minds** at the 2L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City will hold **creative writing classes** this summer. Module 1 is on April 20, 27, May 4 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for children 8 to 12 years old. Module 2 is on April 22, 29, May 6 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for children 12 to 14 years old. It will also hold summer arts and craft workshops (stone printing, clay critters, pop-up books and puppets) on April 14, 21, 28 and May 5. Module 1 is from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Module 2 is from 2 to 4 p.m. Fee is P1,500/child/module (inclusive of materials). For inquiries, call 892-3210.



**Teresita Mapua's "Oracle, if we burn our rainforests, will the seeds have time to grow," part of "Weaving in Revolt," on view at the GSIS Museum**

The **UP Film Institute** resumes its annual **summer workshops** with hands-on, intensive and output-oriented courses on Basic Video Production (April 12 to 24 and May 3 to 15), Basic Photography (April 26 to May 1 and May 17 to 22), Non-linear Editing (April 19 to 30 and May 10 to 21), and Art and Animation (May 24 to June 5). Applications are on a first-come, first-served basis. Forms can be downloaded from the website http://www.upd.edu.ph/~film_ctr/works. html. For details, call Laisa at 925-0286 or 9206863.

**Seafood Gambas Pasta from Cascada**

**Mandy Navasero** is offering a **Digital/SLR photo workshop** to be held from April 17 to May 29. Lectures to be held every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. An orientation will take place on April 3 at 2 p.m. Participants should have their own 35mm camera with interchangeable lens, preferably 105mm, 20mm or 28mm or digital cameras. The workshop will culminate with a photo exhibit. Registration is ongoing at Room 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City or call 899-1767 and 896-3208.

**Faber-Castell** is sponsoring **free summer art workshops** at SM Supermalls open to kids 6-12 years old from private and public elementary schools. Schedules are as follows: SM City Fairview (April 3 and 4); SM Southmall (April 16 and 17); SM City Marilao, Bulacan (April 30 and May 1); SM City Manila (May 7 and 8); SM City North Edsa (May 14 and 15), and at SM Megamall (May 19 and 20). Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For inquiries, call 361-7391 to 92.

Graduates of **Quezon City High School** will hold their **grand alumni homecoming** on April 3, 2 p.m., at the QCHS campus, Scout Ybardolaza, Diliman, Quezon City. Members of Batch 68 are requested to get in touch with Yolie Olivar-Platon at tel. nos. 677-6530 and 0920-6182997, and Jun Veloso at tel. no. 0916-4089207.

**Art Strokes.** Interesting and exciting creative activities starting April 12 open to children and adults to be held in different communities and schools. Courses offered include drawing and painting in charcoal, pastel, acrylic, pen and ink, watercolor and mixed media. Crafts will feature clay works, origami and sculpture. Creative writing will include children's story, romance novel, TV scriptwriting, essay and basic journalism. Art therapy is offered to special children. For inquiries, call Eleanor Yu at 0919-7649321 or leave contact number at 740-7221.

**Care Center for Early Learning** will be offering a variety of **summer workshops** for children 2 to 12 years old. Courses offered are: Tinker Tykes, Toddlers' Playgroup, Storybean Garden, Kitchen Wizards, Computer Explorers, Quest Kids, Twinkletoes, Art Camp, Tiny Tunes, World of Words, Summer Tutorials and Smart Yaya's School. Classes begin April 9. For inquiries, call 928-4847 and 416-5476 or visit its office at 28, Ricardo St., Carmel I Subdivision, QC.

**Starting Your Own Preschool/Child Care Center seminar** will be held on March 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Limited seats. For reservations, call 823-2615. Reservations accepted until March 26 or until capacity is reached.

The AIDS Society of the Philippines will offer a **Basic Acting and Scriptwriting Workshop for Film and TV** from April to July in partnership with Grupong Tinta and the UP Film Institute. The intensive acting workshop will be handled by directors Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Mel Chionglo, Joel Lamangan, Rahyan Carlos and actors Bodjie Pascua and Hero Bautista while the intensive scriptwriting workshop will be handled by ace writers from the TV and film industry. No professional acting or writing experience is necessary. Registration is on March 27 and 28 at the UP Film Center Institute, Diliman QC on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, call 926-8668 or 0916-5823085.

# X-manila

The **Atitipalo Visual Arts Group of Palo, Leyte** is holding its seventh group show on March 22 to 24 at the Tonolete Home, Biliran, Biliran Island-Province. The group is composed of Leo Acebedo, Raul Agner, Rico Palacio and Archie Zabala. Paintings, sculptures and drawings explore social-aesthetic themes derived from WW II memoirs.

**Museo De La Salle** of the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas will launch its **summer workshop series** for the family starting March until May. The summer activity workshop series include Papier Mache for Adults ( March 27 and April 3), Visual Arts Workshop Series (April 19-21), Storytelling for Kids (April 24), Volunteer Training Program for Adults (May 7), and a Kite-Making-Kite-Flying Workshop on May 15. Registration ongoing. For inquiries, call Cecille T. Gelicame at (046) 416-4397, (02) 844-7832, (02) 844-9116 local 3151.

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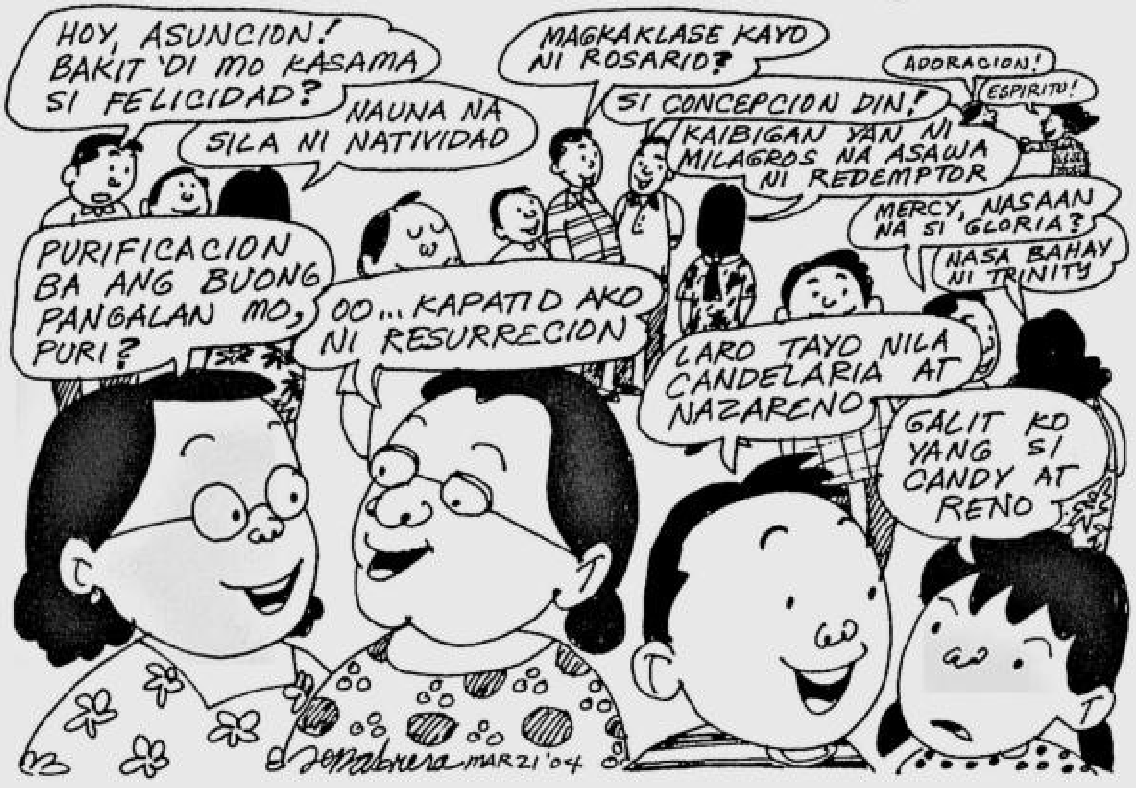
## Pinoy Nga!

**By Jess Abrera**

### Religious Names


HOY, ASUNCION! BAKIT 'DI MO KASAMA SI FELICIDAD?
NAUNA NA SILA NI NATIVIDAD
MAGKAKLASE KAYO NI ROSARIO?
SI CONCEPCION DIN!
KAIBIGAN YAN NI MILAGROS NA ASAWA NI REDEMPTOR
ADORACION!
ESPIRITU!
MERCY, NASAAN NA SI GLORIA?
NASA BAHAY NI TRINITY
PURIFICACION BA ANG BUONG PANGALAN MO, PURI?
OO... KAPATID AKO NI RESURRECION
LARO TAYO NILA CANDELARIA AT NAZARENO
GALIT KO YANG SI CANDY AT RENO
MAR 21 '04

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**For this week's bands and schedules call:**

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

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**The Sunday Inquirer Magazine** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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## Sisters ...from page 3

It is, serendipitously, a collaboration that goes back a long time; Bandojo has been with the Cenacle for 17 years, and Aquino is soon to be ordained a Jesuit. "Arnel and I have been long-time friends from college at Ateneo de Manila University," says Bandojo, "and we were with the first generation Bukas Palad music ministry." Bandojo has been strumming the guitar and singing since her school days. It was fellow Cenacle sister Reylie de Guzman's idea for Bandojo to record a CD, the latter says, "because I was getting too old!" The CD contains 17 songs in English and Filipino, mostly written by Jesuit music-makers Aquino and Manoling Francisco, SJ, and performed with guest artists RB Hizon, SJ, fellow cenacle sister Susay Valdez, and postulant Regina Cruz. Give the songs a listen now and, as the album notes say, let them "lead you to the Upper Room of your hearts." Q

*"Prayers from the Upper Room" is available for P300 at the Cenacle Retreat House (59 Nicanor Reyes, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, tel. nos. 426-0672/426-0663, e-mail cenacolo@skyinet.net) or the Jesuit Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communication Foundation, Inc. (Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, tel. no. 426-6101 loc. 3425, e-mail jmm@vasia.com)*

In Memoriam

**By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes**

# His Touch of Life

**HE'S gone. "*Wala na si* Maestro Caedo..." The text message, circulated by painter Hermes Alegre last Jan. 20 stunned those who had been part of the scuptor's life. Florante "Boy" Caedo, famous for his monumental sculptures, had passed away at 64. He had died of bone cancer, a disease that ruins the bodily form, when he had built a career giving form and breathing life into inanimate objects.**

The son of the renowned Anastacio Caedo, who made the UP Oblation, *Tito* Boy Caedo was mentored by National Artist for Sculpture Guillermo Tolentino. "He would pinch my cheeks whenever I got a commission," he once told this writer in Filipino in his last media interview in 2002. At that time, he was getting ready for a one-man show that would have introduced him to the younger generation—a show that was still in the works when he died.

Aside from his lifelike interpretations of Filipino heroes, the exhibit was to include several "fantasy pieces." He describes them as a series of "*lalakeng nanaginip ng magandang babae; may lalakeng nag-iisip, at babaeng nakalutang sa usok*, (a man dreaming of a beautiful woman, a man deep in thought and a woman floating in smoke)." "*Susubukan ko lang* (I just want to try it)."

But it was in realistic, triple-life sized representations of heroes and historical figures that Caedo carved his name. His is the imposing Tandang Sora tableau, whose eyes alone tell the heart-rending story of the Philippine Revolution, followed by a stunning one of Emilio Jacinto on horseback. Both tower over the Himlayang Pilipino memorial park in Quezon City. Caedo made the statues of Sen. Benigno Aquino, Pres. Ramon Magsaysay, and Pablo Ocampo Sr. along Roxas Blvd.; that of Andres Bonifacio under the LRT station; the 23-foot Brown Madonna in Eternal Gardens (the scale version of which stands somewhere in the Vatican today); a 15-foot Lorenzo Ruiz (also in Rome); and a host of others in and outside the country. Before he died, Caedo had just made studies of a mural for the Pangatian Veterans' Park in Nueva Ecija.

## Born a sculptor

"*Siguro pinanganak akong eskultor* (Maybe I was born a sculptor). My father didn't need to motivate me," Caedo told this writer in Filipino. "I was already telling everyone when I could hardly talk, at three or four: '*kaya ko eskultor*' (I know how to sculpt)."

From endless practice of drawing Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon, the young Caedo learned to hold a pen. At six, he started entering his father's studio on his own and messing with his work. "*Ang dalas kong mapalo noon*! (I used to get smacked a lot!)," he remembered. At 12, virtually writhing with envy at his father's students, he was finally given permission "*para maghimas ng putik*" (to knead the clay). "The first thing I made was a flower, a gumamela. It was so stiff! No life at all. But then *Tatay* began teaching me," he said, the excitement showing in his voice at the memory. "I realized what it was like being an artist—once your mind opens to 'the right way,' everything comes like a flood."

Caedo's growth as an artist was phenomenal. Almost immediately, he took over his father's classes and taught students twice his age. In his third year in college, he became a student professor at UP. All throughout, the young Caedo never stopped working (his first batch of works sold for P250, the prices climbing to P1,500), and his father never stopped coaching him. "He didn't praise me; he just said 'give it a little more, give it a little more,'" Caedo said. "*Basta kung anong sinasabi niya, pasok dito, ipon dito sa gitna ng utak* (whatever he told me entered my ears and remained in my mind)."

During lean times, Caedo even tried his hand at the movies, playing bit roles in FPJ films for P70 a day as "*bandido* goons," he laughed. (FPJ's mother was his art student.) "*Pero talagang eskultor ako. Kung talagang eskultor ka, gagawa at gagawa ang Itaas ng paraan na dun ka babalik* (But I'm really a sculptor. If you're born one, God will lead you back to that path)."

**"Being an artist means opening your mind the right way."**

> *Maestro Boy Caedo was a sculptor of monumental reknown. But despite his artistic legacy and hard-earned fame, he never had the chance to pass on his secrets of breathing life into still form*

His first major commission was the Tandang Sora tableau—in front of which his body now rests. He didn't even know how to price it then. At P50,000 in 1969 for a full year's work, with a family and workers to pay, Caedo made nothing from it. He learned his lesson after that, pricing his works right, raking in the dough and setting up his own sculptural works company, run today by his wife Flor.

## The good life

But Caedo never knew how to play the money game quite right. He loved the good life, and he loved women. He had four wives and 15 children (four by Flor). He was a confessed gambler, one with a lucky hand at the casinos, but who didn't know the meaning of the word "quit." There wasn't a friend he would pass up for a round of beer. "When I was young I squandered my money. I earned fast, and spent it just as fast. P100,000—now you see it, now you don't." He treated his friends to beerhouses and videokes (he would occasionally break out in song), and played Santa Claus, he said.

He learned to regret it later. Four years ago, Caedo fell ill and sunk into depression. It was in Bicol where Alegre discovered the once full-cheeked Caedo in his studio of magnificent, half-finished works. He nursed back the artist in the old man. "*Aba, kung di ka magtatrabaho, magugutom ka,*" Caedo remembered Alegre telling him. "*Aalalayan kita. Basta, gawa ka lang nang gawa diyan.* (If you don't work, you'll go hungry. I'll take care of you. Just get back to work)."

## A generous spirit

Gaunt and humbled, Caedo never fully regained his health, but regained his will to work. His spirit was also as alive as ever, his mischievous eyes darting to and fro, as if scanning the room for something to capture and mold into life. For an artist so full of experience and so renowned, he was also unassuming. He would be the first to give way and listen to a younger, cockier artist tell a joke or a story or critique a work. When his opinion was sought, he never put anything or anyone down.

His generosity and care in not making others feel uncomfortable was such that to this day, Flor is amazed at how her husband didn't complain about the racking pain that hit him whenever he was moved or touched. The pain of bone cancer, his doctor explained to his wife, was excruciating. "*Kahit mahipo lang ang balat, napakasakit na nun* (even a touch is painful)," Flor told this writer. "But he never complained, not once did he complain."

Caedo also waited patiently for Alegre's promise of "Delicious apples," his last material request before he passed away at 4 a.m. on January 20. He waited unwearyingly, and excitedly, for his one-man show to come to fruition, even as his sickness overcame him. And he waited understandingly, for this final interview to see print.

One of the last things he told this writer was that he was also waiting for someone to mentor, to pass on his secret of giving that lifelike stare that all his works possess. "*Iba ang hipo ko. Buhay. Ang mata, buhay. Swerte ako dahil binigyan ako ng kamay na ganito,*" he said. "*Meron akong sekreto na maituturo... pero wala pang tagapagmana* (My touch is different. It gives life to the sculpture, to the sculpture's eyes. I'm lucky that God gave me that gift through my hands. That's a secret I'd like to teach to someone someday, but there are no heirs yet)."

Clearly, *Tito* Boy's works will have to remain in a class of their own for some time.